

## Kirk urges Danes to hold fire

Captain Kent Kirk, back home in Esbjerg, said that he hoped other Danish fishermen would not copy his breach of Britain's new fishing regulations. He said that there should be no similar action pending his appeal against conviction.

Caution urged, page 2  
Issue masked, page 6

## Tax cut hopes

A March Budget is being mentioned as very likely this year but hopes of significant tax cuts are being discounted because of the continuing pressure of sterling and the resulting likelihood of higher inflation.

## Oil field setback

The Government's privatisation programme has suffered a setback with a refusal by British Gas to recommend any of the private sector bids for its stake in Wytch Farm, Britain's largest onshore oil field.

## Onslow's gaffe

Mr Cranley Onslow, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has ended a strained visit to Zimbabwe, not eased by referring to the country as Rhodesia.

## Non-starter

Bookmakers, who say that illegal betting is cutting their turnover and putting many of them out of business, are not expected to win a reduction in the betting tax.

## Hero Himmler

For Heinrich Himmler's young daughter, Gudrun, the SS chief held responsible for killing 10 million people was a shining, overworked, modest hero, extracts from her diary reveal.

## THE TIMES

Tomorrow: Bernard Levin on troubles at *Tribune*; Clifford Longley traces the return of metaphysics to religious debate; Roger Scruton on ways of excluding children from politics and Russell Baker caveshows on the KGB men discussing the Pope; Computer Horizons describes how a lawless west 'live' reports on air; Australian success story speculates on a micro launch and previews next week's major show.

## Trade piracy

Taiwan plans harsher penalties for trade mark 'pirates', who cost western companies millions of pounds a year by producing cheap counterfeits of their products.

## Cancer claim

Claims that many Servicemen who took part in the British nuclear bomb tests in the 1950s contracted and in some cases died from cancer are being examined by cancer statisticians.

## Arts chief clash

The Arts Council meets today to resolve the controversy over the appointment of the next secretary-general after the full council rejected the candidate recommended by the selection committee.

## French 3D deal

Nimble, the 3D camera company which announced last week that it is ceasing production in Dundee, has signed a contract to make the camera in France.

## Pit peace talks

National Coal Board leaders will seek today to reduce a strike threat when they meet Welsh miners to consider their demand for increased investment in the coalfields.

## Botham bouncer

Australian newspapers over the weekend gave prominence to an assertion by Ian Botham that the two umpiring decisions 'probably cost England the last Test match'.

## Leader, page 9

Letters: On unemployment, from Sir Richard O'Brien, and Mrs J. Spencer-Knott; animal experiments, from Professor K. V. Caine; university cuts, from Professor E. A. Barnard.

Features, pages 7, 8: Francis Pym on the EEC's increased importance to Britain; the Conservative pledge that Whitelaw should break; by Gerald Kaufman; Broadway, little business for showbusiness; the House of Indira Gandhi.

Obituary, page 10: Miss Edith Coates; Mr Albert Barnes.

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## Falklanders delighted by Thatcher's secret visit

By Alan Hamilton

To the surprise and dismay of her adversaries at home and abroad, Mrs Margaret Thatcher has travelled in secret half way across the world to a warm and spontaneous welcome from the people of the Falkland Islands.

Her visit, 150 years after the British drove out the Argentines in 1833 and seven months after they repeated the exercise, has been condemned as provocative and arrogant in Buenos Aires and at home, derided by the Opposition as a diversionary tactic.

Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, Labour frontbench spokesman on foreign affairs, accused the Prime Minister yesterday of trying to divert attention from the forthcoming Franks report, which would probably point a finger of accusation at her and her Government for their inactivity in the period before the Argentine invasion.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian and the most dogged critic of the Government's conduct of the Falklands campaign, said yesterday that the visit was profoundly ill advised, carrying great personal risk for Mrs Thatcher and provoking fury throughout Latin America at the arrival of a colonial conqueror.

The Prime Minister's progress, however, has been undeniably triumphal, and a considerably better kept secret than last year's Argentine invasion plans.

Accompanied by her husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, First Sea Lord, and a small posse of officials, Mrs Thatcher left Brize Norton in an RAF VC10 at 9 pm on Friday for a 10-hour flight to Ascension Island. After a one-hour stop the party continued on a 13-hour flight by a Hercules transport aircraft, whose unbearably noisy and Spartan interior had been equipped with a small personal cabin for the Prime Minister.

After a 40-minute flight the Hercules landed at 11 pm in mid-air, and was accompanied by two armed Phantom aircraft.

Local people line route into town. The first that the Falklanders knew of the approach of their heroine was 90 minutes before her aircraft touched down at Port Stanley. Staff at the local radio station were told by Ministry of Defence officials at Stanley, and an immediate broadcast ensured that the pitted and cratered road from the airport to the town was lined with several hundred Kelpers.

She was met by Sir Rex Hunt, the civil commissioner, and Lady Hunt, and she and Mr Thatcher were driven to town in the now familiar Falklands limousine, a maroon London taxi.

What should have been a five-minute journey took nearly half an hour as the taxi avoided the potholes of war, and stopped twice as people crowded round. She was hugged and embraced, and presented with red roses; no attempt was made to clear the crowds away.

Asked if her visit would not be viewed as a provocative gesture by Argentina, the Prime Minister replied: "It would be very strange if I did not come to the Falkland Islands, very strange indeed."

The spontaneous reception obviously delighted her, and one Falklander, talking to *The Times* by telephone yesterday, remarked: "They didn't even turn out to cheer the Duke of Edinburgh when he came here in 1957."

Mrs Thatcher told the islanders yesterday that the worst week in her life was when she heard the Argentine invasion force was on its way.

She also spoke of her "three great experiences in the affair: when she was told that the Argentine surrender flags were flying over Port Stanley; and her present visit."

After spending the night at Government House, Mrs Thatcher began her second day, yesterday, by taking a short flight in a Sea King helicopter of 202 Squadron to RAF Stanley, remarking to Flight Lieutenant John Prince, the pilot, on the beauty of the weather and the view.

At the RAF base she toured Phantom and Harrier detachments and watched a practice scramble by two Phantoms. She climbed a temporary staging fashioned from packing cases to talk eye-to-eye with one of the Phantom pilots seated in his cockpit.

Cuban connexion, page 6  
Leading article, page 9

Miss Thatcher's visit to the Falklands was "an act of provocation and arrogance", Argentina said yesterday, calling her presence there "yet another flagrant violation of Argentina's sovereign rights" (our Foreign Staff write). Señor Juan Ramon Aguirre Larraz, the Foreign Minister, said that Mrs Thatcher's visit "underlines the only title Britain possesses to the islands, that of force".

Argentina firmly maintained its claim of "sovereignty over the Malvinas in the expectation that the civilized international community will give its support".



The Prime Minister and her husband at Government House with Sir Rex and Lady Hunt and (below) Mrs Thatcher chatting with a child who had presented her with a pink rose.

## Maxwell in talks on sale of 'Observer'

By Baron Phillips

Talks which could lead to the sale of *The Observer* newspaper are taking place, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the head of Lorrho, confirmed last night. The sale is also likely to include *The Sunday Standard*, *The Glasgow Herald* and a group of Scottish provincial newspapers.

A leading contender for the newspapers is Mr Robert Maxwell, who owns the British Printing Corporation, Mr Maxwell's desire to own a national newspaper is well known and a meeting took place recently between him and Mr Rowland when the sale of *The Observer* was thought to have been discussed.

Mr Rowland's decision to sell *The Observer* came as a surprise to journalists and directors. Speaking from his Buckinghamshire country home, Mr Rowland said: "If anyone wants to buy the papers and makes a fair offer then we will sell."

It is understood that Mr Rowland is seeking offers of between £45m and £50m for *The Observer* and the Scottish newspapers although City observers regard this as too high a price.

Mr Kenneth Clark, one of the independent directors appointed when Mr Rowland finally received Department of Trade approval for the acquisition of *The Observer* in July 1981, said the news came as a complete surprise to both him and his co-directors.

"My feeling is that this would be a disaster if *The Observer* becomes something which could be bought and sold twice a year. I thought the purpose of the independent directors was to protect the papers from interference," Mr Clark said last night.

Mr Robert Anderson, the chairman of Atlantic Richfield who sold *The Observer* to Mr Rowland and who is chairman of the newspaper's board, admitted he was also taken by surprise. He is in London for tomorrow's regular *Observer* board meeting.

Behind Mr Rowland's decision to sell is probably his feeling of frustration with the British business environment. He has been constantly thwarted over his attempts to takeover Harrods and in spite of running a highly successful firm, he feels he is not getting the City recognition he believes he deserves.

Timing of *The Observer* announcement is regarded by directors and senior journalists as curious. Tomorrow's important board meeting was called to discuss future developments of the newspaper along with viability forecasts.

Mr Donald Treflford, the editor of *The Observer*, was unavailable for comment but one journalist said the news "felt like a bombshell on the staff".

Mr Robert Low, *The Observer's* father of the chapel, said yesterday: "If the sale goes ahead we would like it done on the open market with the Department of Trade insisting on guarantees of editorial independence. As it did when Lorrho bought the paper."

## Extortionist blasts aircraft at Brisbane

From Tony Duboulin Melbourne

Security at Australian airports has been sharply increased after an extortionist demanding \$A1m (about £625,000) fired a missile at an aircraft at Brisbane airport.

The extortionist is believed to have contacted the Brisbane office of the state-owned domestic airline Trans-Australian Airlines (TAA) on Wednesday and demanded the money or else a TAA aircraft would be shot down.

After the demand the extortionist then damaged an old, privately owned Canberra bomber - part of a museum display - with a rocket.

The first indication that something was afoot was on Friday when Mr Kevin Newman, the federal Minister for Administrative Services, gave the press the sketchiest details of the affair and asked for a media blackout.

Speculation ran wild. Some of the more exotic theories involved the PLO, the Croatian Liberation Movement, a Jewish group, and a threat to a Boy Scout jamboree.

## Alpine retreat

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday flew to Switzerland where they are expected to take a skiing holiday. They were not accompanied by their son Prince William.

## Victims freed after 5-day kidnap terror

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The son of a wealthy London diamond merchant was freed by Scotland Yard detectives yesterday after being held captive for five days while a ransom of up to £2m was demanded from his family with threats to mutilate or kill him.

Mr Emmanuel Xuereb, aged 33, a wine merchant, was seized last Tuesday with his wife Maria, aged 25, from their home in Bromley, Kent. Mr Xuereb's father was initially asked for £2m but on Saturday Mrs Xuereb was freed by the couple's captors with a note asking for £525,000.

Yesterday morning in a raid on a house in Kemble Road, Croydon, Surrey, detectives freed Mr Xuereb and arrested three men. At luncheon yesterday a fourth man was arrested in north London and all four are expected to appear in court today.

Scotland Yard was called in by the Xuereb family soon after the couple disappeared and 120 officers with 80 vehicles were put on the case under the command of Commander William Huckleby, head of the anti-terrorist squad. Details of the case were released to the press under a news blackout arrangement lifted yesterday.

At a press conference Mr Gilbert Kelland, the assistant commissioner in charge of CID, praised the courage of Mr and Mrs Xuereb.

He reserved special praise for Mrs Xuereb, who he described as "a very brave young lady".

The couple and Mr Anthony Xuereb, a Hutton Garde diamond merchant, praised the police for their work.

Mr Xuereb said that when he was told by his captors that his wife was to be released he did not know if it was a trick and he was worried for her.

The worst time of the kidnap was the 24 hours he had spent on his own after his wife's release. "I was worried, more worried than when she was with me," he said.

His wife said after she was freed she was terrified at what might happen to her husband. Earlier, she had been "worried all the time that we were never going to get out".

She said: "I am very happy to be free." Mr Xuereb said they had been blindfolded all the time and they felt in danger.

Mr Anthony Xuereb said he thought the police had been "really terrific". Mr Xuereb, aged 60, received the messages and approaches from the kidnapers which included threats to cut off his son's fingers at the rate of one a day and to murder him sending the head in a box.

Mr Kelland also thanked the press for their cooperation in keeping the police involvement and details of the case a secret.

## Bush visit increases chances of summit

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The decision by President Reagan to send Mr George Bush, the Vice President to Europe at the end of this month is seen as increasing the chances of a United States-Soviet summit meeting taking place either late this year or early in 1984.

While in Europe the Vice President will hold talks with Nato leaders and American arms reduction negotiators about the recent Soviet initiative proposing sizable cuts in the nuclear arsenals held by the two super-powers and a non-aggression treaty between Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

White House officials said that based on the consultations Mr Bush would be in a position to decide whether the Soviet proposals were substantial enough to merit a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader.

There is an increasingly widely held view in Washington that a meeting would greatly enhance Mr Reagan's reputation, domestically and internationally, if it were to result in progress on reducing nuclear weapons.

The decision to dispatch Mr Bush on his 12-day journey, starting on January 30, reflects growing US concern that the Soviet Union has gained the initiative in the propaganda war, being waged by the two super-powers over nuclear arms reduction, particularly in Western Europe where there is growing opposition to the planned deployment of 572 Pershing-2 and ground-launched cruise missiles.

His visit will take place one month before the general election in West Germany which is scheduled to be the first recipient of these new weapons.

Mr Bush will first visit West Germany and will then travel to the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, France and finally Britain. Five of the countries he will visit are proposed sites for the new medium-range missiles which Nato plans to deploy to counter the threat posed by the 300 or so SS20 missiles deployed by the Soviet Union.

In London Mr Bush will have talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Michael Heseltine, the new Defence Secretary.

Cruise bargaining, page 4

## The jewellery you never wear

You may be among the many people who have jewellery which seldom sees the light of day - perhaps because the setting is unattractive or outdated. Why not put the gems to good use? The skill and experience of Garrard experts is available to do that for you. After examination of your jewellery and discussion of the ways in which the gems could be re-set, Garrard will provide a sketch of a new setting and an estimate free of charge. Moderate costs make this a very worthwhile and economical way of giving old gems a new lease of life.

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## Big selection victory for Tatchell

By George Clark

Mr Peter Tatchell, the young left-winger who earned Mr Michael Foot's disapproval at his views on extra-parliamentary political action, was chosen again yesterday as Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Southwark, Bermondsey.

It was a notable victory for him after a year-long campaign to establish his position. At a meeting of the constituency party's general management committee he obtained 42 votes, against eight for Mr Eric Moonman, former MP for Basildon, and two for Mr James Little, a Kent county councillor.

The by-election, for which no date had been fixed, is caused through the resignation of Mr Robert Mellish, aged 69, who had been the area's MP for 36 years and is a former Labour chief whip.

Mr Tatchell, 27, a former left-winger, who earned Mr Michael Foot's disapproval at his views on extra-parliamentary political action, was chosen again yesterday as Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Southwark, Bermondsey.

A persistent critic of left-wing activists, whom he claimed took over the constituency about two years ago, Mr Mellish will continue his opposition to the now running the local party. He calls them the "left-wing mafia".

He will back as Independent Labour candidate Mr John O'Grady, aged 62, the former Southwark council leader, who was at last night's meeting. The Labour Party National Executive Committee refused to endorse Mr Tatchell as candidate after the first reselection conference because of his "extra-parliamentary" views, but it is expected now that he will be given endorsement.

The party nationally would suffer if it continued to challenge the democratic decision of a local party.

Mr O'Grady confirmed after last night's meeting that if the NEC endorses the selection, he would oppose Mr Tatchell as an Independent Labour candidate.

Mr Tatchell said he was confident that his candidature would be endorsed.



Mr Tatchell: A notable victory.

voters who supported Mr Mellish at the general election, giving him a majority of more than 11,000.

In a farewell letter distributed to all electors when he resigned, Mr Mellish set out his reasons for resigning and promised that there would be an opportunity to vote for a "moderate" when the by-election came.

It is expected that many former Labour voters, tired of the local feuding, will turn to one of the other parties. The Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance naturally hopes that it will win much support for Mr Simon Hughes, the Liberal candidate, a barrister aged 31 from Camberwell.

The Conservative candidate is Mr Robert Hughes, aged 31, a BBC producer.

One certainty is that the voters will not have any lack of choice. There are about seventeen candidates in the field.



## Letter on death stops funeral

A coroner has stopped the funeral of a retired Congregational minister's wife because of a letter casting doubt on the cause of her death.

Mr Alan Dixon made the announcement after being told that the letter had been received at St. Andrew's Congregational Church, a police station.

The letter expressed concern about the circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs. Northcott, who died on December 27. Mrs. Northcott, of Leicester Road, Leicestershire, died after a long illness.

Her funeral was to take place in the village Congregational church in Ullenhough, Leicestershire, on Friday, before Mr. Dixon, the North Warwickshire coroner, could order a second post-mortem examination after hearing about the letter.

That was carried out by a coroner, an Office pathologist, and a coroner, and the coroner will order a report on the death.

The funeral was to have been conducted by Mrs. Northcott's husband and a colleague. Her husband retired last year as the minister of the Congregational church at Ullenhough.

## Extra £380,000 for schools

West Sussex County Council has allocated a further £380,000 to its 300 schools to buy books and other materials. The cash is equivalent to £3.50 a pupil.

Mr. Kenneth Ball, chairman of the education committee, said yesterday that his committee was in difficulty with the purchase of books, particularly for examination courses. The county's 35 public libraries will get a total of £20,000 extra for books.

## Shop smashed by stolen bus

A thief stole a double-deck London bus and smashed it into a betting shop in Plaistow, east London, yesterday.

The thief took the bus from the West Ham garage at about 11.30 and apparently escaped unhurt, as the car was not damaged. The police said the bus had been parked on the road for several hours, and the driver was not seen.

## Pilkingtons faces strike

The General Municipal, Boiler-makers and Allied Trades Union executive is being asked to back a ballot calling for an official strike at Pilkingtons, the glass company.

The dispute is over pay. Pilkingtons says it is overpaying the company. The company wants to withdraw from central agreements and replace them with negotiations at each of the plants.

## Fire death

An unidentified body was found yesterday by firemen searching a hotel in Princess Square, Baywater, central London, which was badly damaged by fire on Saturday.

Two people were still unaccounted for. Police have ruled out arson.

## Police injured

Nine policemen were reported to be injured yesterday after being injured dealing with crowds in Derby for the FA Cup visit of Nottingham Forest on Saturday, after which 13 people appeared before Derby magistrates.

## 160 jobs lost

A further 160 jobs are to be lost on Merseyside with closure of the DRG paper cups plant at Fazakerley, north Liverpool.

## NCB to meet union over strike threat

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board will seek today to overcome a strike threat by 23,000 Welsh miners with a promise to consider sympathetically their demand for increased investment in the coalfield.

Leaders of the South Wales area of the National Union of Mineworkers will meet Mr. Norman Siddall, the chairman of the NCB, and other board members, including Mr. Philip Weekes, the director of the Welsh coalfield, to examine proposals to put more capital into declining pits.

So far only £30m of the industry's £800m-a-year investment programme has been earmarked for South Wales, and the miners want 10 times the figure originally allocated to avert the closure of pits nearing the end of their economic reserves.

The board is not expected to disclose today how far it will go towards meeting the union's demands. But it is likely to make encouraging noises about opening new faces at existing pits if the overall cost of producing coal in South Wales can be reduced. That would entail the shutdown of some high-cost capacity.

It remains to be seen whether that response will be enough to get the Welsh miners to call off or suspend their all-out strike, due to begin a week today. The NUM executive meets tomorrow to discuss the board's reaction, and will report to a full

## 145 tax collection offices to close

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Government is proposing to close 145 local tax collection offices over the next four years to shed 3,000 Inland Revenue jobs. Leaders of the union involved predicted last night that the closures would "depersonalize" the service and lead to more unpaid tax.

Details of the closure programme are being posted in tax offices today, but the Inland Revenue Staff Federation is seeking emergency talks with the employers in an effort to forestall the shutdowns and redundancies.

The Treasury programme of cuts is geared directly to the increasing computer use of tax by Shropshire, West Yorkshire, and East Kent, in Scotland.

The 76 offices scheduled for closure in single offices are: In England: Alnmouth, Darlington, Durham, Grimsby, Keighley, Scunthorpe, Stockton, Sunderland, Burnley, Chester, Lancaster, Preston, St. Helens, Southport, Warrington, Boston, Chesterfield, Halifax.

## Union seizes books

By Our Labour Editor

The records of the rebellious Fleet Street electricians have been seized by their union's head office in a move that may herald disciplinary sanctions over strikes and sympathetic industrial action.

Officials of the London Press branch of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union were given 10 days to surrender their minutes and attendance books to Mr. Frank Chapple, general secretary of the union. They have complied.

Mr. Sean Geraghty, secretary of the branch, said last night: "There has not been any complaint. They simply required our books, and as a result of receiving them they are now instituting an inquiry into the branch."

Fleet Street electricians have rarely been absent from the news since going on strike on



Mr. Michael Heseltine, the new Secretary of State for Defence, with his wife at Heathrow yesterday when he arrived home from a Caribbean holiday.

## Militant 'would meet NEC'

By Our Political Staff

Leading members of the Militant Tendency, whose proposed expulsion from the Labour Party will be discussed today at a meeting in London of the party's organization sub-committee, are willing to meet the party executive to discuss action that would make the tendency acceptable, removing the accusation that it is a "party within a party".

Mr. Peter Taaffe, editor of *Militant*, indicated that yesterday when commenting on the two papers that Mr. James Mortimer, general secretary of the party, has prepared for today's meeting. The paper points out the legal difficulties that could arise from the expulsion of Militant leaders.

As an alternative to expulsion, Mr. Mortimer has proposed the "dissolution" of the tendency.

That, he says, could be achieved if the Militant leaders would agree to dissolve their structure at central, district, and local level; wind up their fundraising body, WIR Publications; stop their supporters from holding faction meetings; open their readers' conferences to all party members; and sever any international links with like-minded groups.

"I would see no difficulty in meeting the national executive committee and discussing these five points and coming to an agreement," Mr. Taaffe said when he was interviewed yesterday on the BBC radio programme, *The World This Week*.

If the party went ahead with widespread expulsions and the expulsion of the five members of the board of *Militant*, it

would divide the party, he said.

Mr. Mortimer says in one of his papers that an attempt at expulsions could well fail because it would expose an inconsistency in Labour Party practice which could be argued to be of doubtful constitutional validity.

The "technical inconsistency" lies in the fact that many other groups have been declared "ineligible for affiliation" but only the Militant Tendency is under threat of expulsion.

"It would be damaging to the Labour Party if it were to proceed on the basis of expulsions, only to find that the courts held that the national executive committee itself had been acting on the issue of eligibility without proper and constitutional cover," Mr. Mortimer says.

## Worse to come for Ireland

People in the Irish Republic, already faced with high fuel, tobacco, and drink prices, are likely to face more shocks in the complete financial package on February 4.

The preliminary increases, seen as savage by most consumers and trade interests, are reckoned to be only the start of a series of belt-tightening exercises.

Mr. Alan Dukes, the Finance Minister, in office for less than a month after the change of Government in Dublin, said yesterday that a further £350m had to be found.

Some economists have forecast that the new coalition Administration of Dr. Garret Fitzgerald could reintroduce private household rates, abolish five years ago, raise VAT and look at income tax ceilings.

Mr. Dukes spoke of possible payments for certain normally free local authority services.

Meanwhile, amid the hostile reaction to Friday's increases, the Irish Hotels Federation, in a telegram to Dr. Fitzgerald, called for VAT rebates, and a special petrol voucher system for tourists. Visitors to Ireland will have to pay £2.30 for a gallon

## Communist resigns after party dispute

By Our Labour Editor

Mr. Michael Costello, the national industrial organizer of the Communist Party, has left his post "for personal reasons" in the wake of a bitter ideological dispute.

His resignation, accepted by the party's executive committee at the weekend, "came as a bombshell," according to a senior party source. It comes as a critical point in communist fortunes, with falling membership and industrial cadres severely affected by the economic recession.

While his departure is attributed to undisclosed personal motives, Mr. Costello is to give up a key role in the hard left of the labour movement within months of a fierce controversy over alleged liberalization of party attitudes.

An attack he made last September on an article published in *Marxism Today*, the party's theoretical journal, which criticized shop stewards as "a new working class elite" has been repudiated by the party executive by a two to one majority.

Mr. Costello said the article was a gross slander on the trade union movement, fit only for the capitalist press, but the

party leadership did not support him.

The controversy was seen as a public surfacing of an internal battle between the "old guard," represented by his views, and those led by Mr. Martin Jacques, editor of *Marxism Today*, who redesigned the journal on more liberal lines.

At bottom, the ideological struggle was out whether the party should oppose all incomes policies, the official line backed by Costello and his allies in heavy industry, or embrace a "socialist incomes policy," as favoured by some on the left and particularly the Labour shadow cabinet.

The degree to which his resignation relates to that internal furor over policy cannot yet be gauged, but he is known to have been disappointed at the executive's vote not to back his orthodox line against the liberalizing trends of *Marxism Today*.

His departure leaves a hole in the left's organizational armoury just as the unions prepare for their policy-making conferences and as work gets under way on the second "people's march for jobs, with which he was closely connected.

## Campaign to block map 'sell-off'

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Royal Geographical Society is planning a campaign to stop the Government turning the Ordnance Survey into a commercial organization.

Whitehall proposals to establish a training fund for the survey, a means of introducing a commercial financial system, have twice been shelved over the past decade after intensive lobbying from customers.

But when the Commons considered the government training funds Bill in October, 1973, it was accepted that a training fund could be created for the survey, provided consultations were held and Parliament was informed of the reaction.

Mr. Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for the Environment, announced last July that he intended "to give Ordnance Survey the chance to operate effectively as a free-standing trading organization whose performance can be judged in a commercial framework."

The results of his statutory consultation were published in a White Paper on the day the Commons rose for the Christmas recess, a common Whitehall device for dampening parliamentary and media interest.

Summing up the 37 representations received on his proposal, Mr. Heseltine said: "They are concerned that with a training fund the OS archives might be allowed to deteriorate, the quality and coverage of OS products and services might be reduced and that higher prices might result in a fall in usage and in provision." He said he appreciated the concerns but there had to be a limit to the public resources devoted to survey and mapping. That makes it all the more important to see that Ordnance Survey has the systems and incentives to make the best use of the money which is available to it.

Business efficiency and commercial principles, far from being detrimental to quality and service, should help the nation to get the best possible survey and mapping service it could afford, he said.

That was his central purpose in establishing the OS as a trading fund, within which he was satisfied that the concerns could be met.

The Government will now give the Lords and Commons the opportunity to debate the white paper, before MPs vote on an affirmative order to implement Mr. Heseltine's proposal.

But the Royal Geographical Society, which has helped to coordinate previous campaigns in defence of OS, is once again preparing to mobilize public and parliamentary opinion to protect the 190-year-old institution from the government's economic drive.

Opponents believe that a trading fund would be the first step towards the ultimate privatization of the survey, with a lasting erosion of its basic public service mapwork.

Proposed Training Fund for the Ordnance Survey: Report of the results of Consultation (Stationary Office £2.30).

## Science report

### Rotation of Earth affected by climate

By the Staff of "Nature"

The most accurate attempt so far to account for the way in which the speed of the Earth's rotation is affected by the weather has been carried out by Mr. Kurt Lambeck and Mr. Peter Hoggood, meteorologists from the Australian National University at Canberra. The development is important because it makes it possible to pick out more clearly than in the past fluctuations in the speed of the Earth's rotation caused by processes within the Earth itself.

That the Earth's rotation is not constant was first established more than half a century ago by irregularities in the apparent movement of stars across the sky. The irregularities are, however, exceedingly small, amounting to no more than a few parts in a hundred million. From the outset, seasonal variations in the speed of rotation have suggested that climatic effects might be important.

What Lambeck and Hoggood have now done is to calculate, from meteorological data about wind speed in the atmosphere stretching back for 22 years from 1960 (and thus covering roughly two sunspot cycles), the continual variations of the speed of circulation of the atmosphere as a whole.

This is connected with the solid Earth spins on its axis because the total angular momentum of the solid Earth and its atmosphere must remain constant: the faster the atmospheric circulation, in general from west to east, the slower the rotation of the solid Earth.

It emerges that the circulation of the atmosphere accounts for about two parts in a hundred million in the observed pattern of changes in the Earth's rotational speed, and it is strongly seasonal in character.

When the calculation effect of the weather is subtracted from the measured fluctuation in the Earth's rotational speed, and when allowance is made for the steady decrease of the Earth's rotational speed caused by the tidal effects of the Moon and the Sun, the researchers conclude that between 1958 and 1980 there was an irregular fluctuation of the speed of the Earth's rotation.

At the beginning of that period the speed of rotation was decreasing; it was low during the early 1970s but has since been increasing again. The authors accept the general opinion that the most likely cause of those changes is a rearrangement of the material of which the Earth is made in the region separating the solid body of the Earth from the molten core at the Earth's centre.

Source: *Geophysical Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society*, volume 71, page 581, December, 1982.  
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## Caution urged on Kirk

By George Clark

Colleagues of Mr. Kent Kirk, the Danish trawler captain and MEP, who was fined £30,000 in Newcastle on Friday for illegal fishing, have advised him not to raise the fishing dispute at this week's session of the European Parliament, which opens in Strasbourg today.

In view of the legal position, he has promised to take the case to the European Court - his friends have advised caution, but he may take part in the debate if there is an emergency resolution tabled by other Danish MEPs, as seems likely.

It will be an important week for Mr. Kirk, because he will be leading the European Democratic (Conservative) group, consisting of 60 British Conservatives, two Danes and one Ulster Unionist. He takes over as deputy leader to Sir Henry Plumb, who will be addressing a congress of businessmen in Dallas, US, sharing the platform with President Reagan.

British Conservatives said it had been arranged that Mr. Kirk should leave the chair at any group meeting which may be called to discuss fishing.

Mr. Richard Courtell, Conservative MEP for Bristol, who accused Mr. Kirk last week of "disloyalty" to the group and to the Conservative-led Danish

Government, yesterday pointed out a recent precedent which could tell against the Dane at the European Court.

He said Mr. Jock Kerr, a Grimsby trawler skipper, was fined about £6,000 for illegal fishing in the 12-mile Danish fishing limit around Greenland in 1978. He appealed to the European Court but the Danish conviction was upheld.

"What Britain is doing, with the support of eight other EEC Governments and the EEC commission, is obviously perfectly legal under the recent European Court decision," he said.

Mr. James Provan, Conservative MEP for North-east Scotland, said yesterday that Scottish skippers believed there was little support for Mr. Kirk's action among Danish trawlermen.

Real issues, page 6



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## State firm tries to be diplomatic New satellite station planned

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

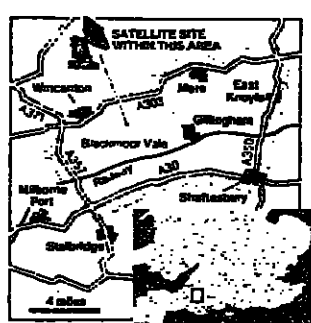
British Telecom is hoping to persuade the inhabitants of Blackmoor Vale, on the borders of Wiltshire Somerset and Dorset, that a series of satellite dishes up to 32 metres across, nestled beneath the downs, would be an object of beauty and a source of wealth and employment for the local community.

The state company needs urgently to find a suitable site on which to build a third Earth station for its international satellite communications. Telephone, television, data and telex traffic, which is doubling in volume every four to five years, is swamping the stations at Goonhilly, Cornwall, and Madley, Hereford and Worcester.

Early last year British Telecom International (BTI) was refused planning permission to build the £80m station on its first-choice site, in the Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire, after a vigorous campaign by local opponents, who said that it would ruin an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Now BTI has identified a new area, in the northern part of Blackmoor Vale, which its engineers say would provide a suitable alternative.

British Telecom had exacerbated opposition in the Vale of



Pewsey by failing to consult people in the area before buying a farm and applying for planning permission to build the communications station on it.

It is taking a more diplomatic approach in the Blackmoor Vale. Residents are being told about its plans through local newspapers and councils before the exact site is chosen.

The area is within an oval bounded roughly by the towns of East Knoyle, Mere, Wincanton, Milborne Port, Stalbridge, and Shaftesbury.

That takes in the three counties and three district councils: Salisbury, North Dorset, and Yeovil. They are all taking a cautious line so far, waiting for a specific site to be chosen.

"Our people have seen three

or four possible sites in the area", British Telecom said. An Earth station should ideally be located in a natural bowl, free of local electrical and radio interference, and screened by hills from more distant interference.

The proposal is not being dismissed out of hand because of its possible employment benefits, a local planning official said. "On the other hand, the councillors and officers are very concerned about the environmental impact."

The 60-acre development would create about 120 skilled jobs, operating and maintaining 20 32-metre dishes and up to five 19-metre dishes.

Unofficial local reaction has also been quiet. "Everybody's attitude is: 'Let's get all the facts first before we say anything,'" Mr. Martin Heal, district reporter for the *Western Gazette*, said. "We had a logo made ready for a big campaign against it, but it has not materialized yet."

"There need be no fear that an Earth station will spoil the area", Mr. David Withers, chief engineer for BTI, said. "Earth stations create no noise, smell, pollution, or television interference. The communities at Goonhilly and Madley have come to view their stations as assets."



## Licensed bookmakers and Jockey Club combine to fight illegal betting

By Rupert Morris

Bookmakers, who have been complaining that illegal betting is reducing their turnover and putting an increasing number of them out of business, can expect a dusty answer from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to their request for a reduction in betting tax.

In normal circumstances their complaint would be seen as a business suffering from a recession, but on this occasion, however, they have formed an unprecedented alliance with the Jockey Club and produced detailed evidence to support their case.

The problem is that this evidence is not corroborated by the Customs and Excise which, largely on the basis of information supplied by the bookmakers, has taken action against a number of individuals or clubs.

"We are aware of the claims made by the industry," Customs and Excise says, "but the evidence is far from conclusive, and inquiries through local customs staff certainly do not suggest that there has been any substantial increase in illegal betting or that the duty evaded in this way is

significant in comparison with the revenue from licensed bookmakers."

Last month a deputation led by Lord Manton, chief steward of the Jockey Club, went to the Home Secretary, claiming that 15 to 20 per cent of betting was now illegal, and requesting that betting shops be allowed to introduce television, and comfortable furniture to attract customers who had been led astray.

Bookmakers say they are losing business to public houses and clubs who will take tax-free bets over the bar, as well as allowing their customers to watch the races on television.

The racing and betting lobby points to the report in 1978 of the Royal Commission on Gambling, which identified a revival in illegal betting after 1966, and attributed it to the combined effects of duty and the levy, the means by which the horse-racing authorities raise money from the bookmakers, at 1 per cent of their annual turnover.

The royal commission also said that illegal betting would increase rapidly when the combined rates of duty and levy reached a certain critical point. It said that the existing rate was

"running it dangerously close", more

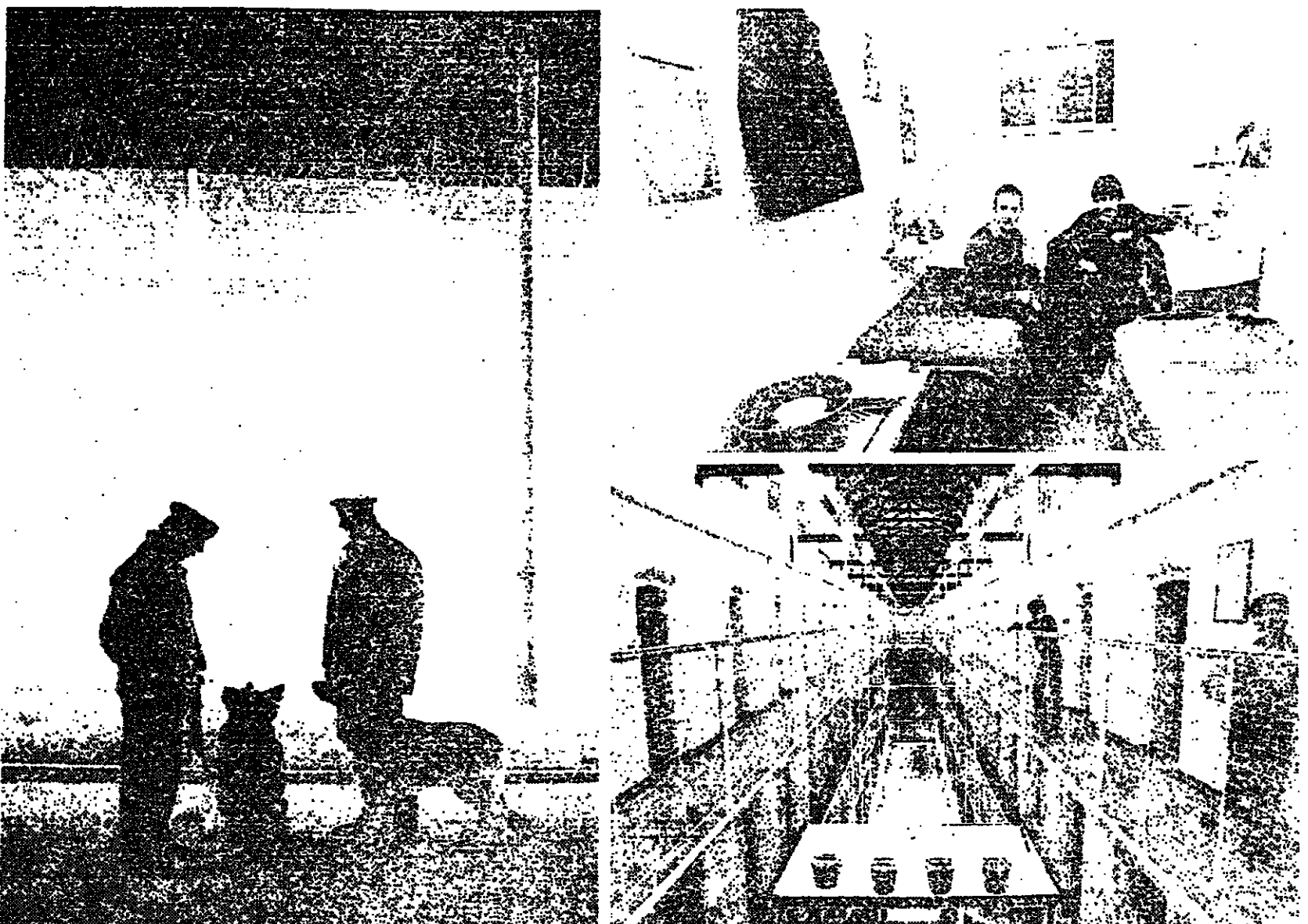
Since then the off-course betting duty has gone up from 7.5 to 8 per cent. The bookmakers say this has passed the "critical point" identified by the royal commission.

They say it led directly to a fall in profits last year, and has been responsible for the loss of 293 betting shops in the year to the end of last June.

The slump in the bookmakers' fortunes is borne out by Customs and Excise provisional figures for the raising of general betting duty in the financial year 1981-82. These show that after substantial percentage rises in revenue in each of the four preceding years, revenue went up only from £250m to £255m which, after allowing for inflation could be said to represent a decrease.

Latest estimates from the Bookmaking Offices Licensees Association (Bola), which represents most of Britain's leading firms, show an accelerating decrease in turnover.

But the racing industry cannot prove that such a decline is caused by the combination of high taxation and increasing illegal betting. It could equally well be a result of the recession.



Life at Wormwood Scrubs: Guard dogs and handlers patrolling the perimeter wall; two prisoners sharing a cell; and the landings of 'C' wing.

## New governor will take over a collapsing 'Scrubs'

When Mr Ian Dunbar takes over as governor of Wormwood Scrubs prison, in London at the end of the month he will find that he is having to cope with a prison that is falling down (Peter Evans writes).

"D" wing, which contains the most dangerous prisoners in the jail, is the latest part to show signs of collapse. A section of the floor is sagging nine inches below its proper level and has had to be roped off. That is bad news for headquarters administrators, who are already so short of

prisoners' accommodation in the South-east of England that inadequate police cells are having to be used.

Part of the pressure on the system comes from the closure of "A" wing at the Scrubs after the floor there began to collapse. The wing, which held 300 men, is being refurbished as part of a 20 year building programme for the prison.

The planners will have to decide whether "D" wing should be closed and if so where to put its

potentially dangerous population of IRA men, London gangsters, sex offenders and others in the highest security category.

Given the shortage of money, "D" wing's closure could put back plans for "B" and "C" wings, which are next in line for refurbishing, with integral sanitation. A failure to include cell lavatories in the refurbishing of "A" wing caused an outcry.

The first of a three-part series by Peter Evans on the cost of crime begins tomorrow.

## Cancer checks on nuclear test men

By Alan Hamilton

Exports in the statistics of cancer are examining claims that a significant number of ex-servicemen who took part in the British programme of nuclear bomb tests in the South Pacific between 1952 and 1958 have contracted, and in some cases died from, the disease.

Two television programmes to be screened this week, an independent production for Channel Four and the BBC's *Nationwide*, have between them assembled more than 130 case histories which, the victims assert, can be traced to radiation exposure during the series of nine test firings of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

Interest in the long-term effects of the tests has been fuelled by recent activity in both the United States and Australia. Judgement is expected soon on a series of claims from American Servicemen and their widows arising from the US nuclear test programme in the Nevada desert conducted at the same time as the British tests.

The Australian Nuclear Veterans' Association, having approached 600 Servicemen and civilians who participated in the bomb tests, found that 114 of them had died, 109 from cancer.

No proper survey of British

Servicemen has yet been carried out. But the case histories assembled by the BBC after a broadcast appeal last November have been passed for analysis to the medical faculty of Birmingham University, where there is a department specialising in cancer statistics.

In the past 10 years six claims for compensation from test series cancer victims or their widows have been brought before internal hearings at the Ministry of Defence, and all have been dismissed.

Of the 10,000 servicemen involved in the six-year test programme, a detachment of 300 were garrisoned on Christmas Island, where the last and largest of the hydrogen bomb tests took place. Among those was Mr Phillip Munn, of East Kilbride, Lanarkshire, who was a sapper aged 22 and who now suffers from leukaemia.

Former Chief Petty Officer William Grigsby, of Liverpool, died of cancer six years ago. His widow, Mrs Ellen Grigsby, has applied for a war widow's pension after her husband's death, but was refused. She has been in touch with the Australian Nuclear Veterans' Association, but at present there is no similar organization to coordinate and push the cases in Britain.

## Council to discuss arts chief clash

By Christopher Warman

Arts Correspondent

A special meeting of the Arts Council is being held today to try to resolve the embarrassing controversy over the appointment of the council's secretary-general to succeed Sir Roy Shaw when he retires.

Mr Luke Rittner, director of the Association of Business Sponsorship for the Arts, was recommended for the post by a seven-strong selection committee led by Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the council, but the full council rejected him on December 15 after opposition from some members and the presentation of a petition by senior council officers.

The selection committee, which includes a government representative, Sir James Hamilton, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, is to consider the matter before the meeting. The full council has set aside 45 minutes for a private session to discuss the next step. Mr Rittner, aged 35, is regarded as unsuitable for the post by senior staff and some members because of his inexperience and lack of qualifications.

The staff has emphasized there is nothing personal in their stand, which is more polite than the view of one or two members, who point to his academic background of three "O" levels and drama school.

Sir William, an enthusiastic supporter of Mr Rittner's candidature, regard him as excellently qualified, and believes that his work in encouraging private sponsorship for the arts would be of great benefit in the future. Sir William has dismissed speculation that he might resign as chairman if Mr Rittner is rejected again.

He has accused them of conservatism in defending their entrenched positions, and a fear of change. That in turn has led to resentment among council staff, and the atmosphere at the council headquarters at 105 Piccadilly, is one of dismay as well as of intense speculation about the future.

If the council remains divided over the appointment it will have to decide whether to call in the other candidates or advertise the post again.

Today's special meeting will also discuss the crucial main allocations of its £32m government grant for 1983-84, which it will disclose on Wednesday.

## Group to oversee MSC scheme for teenagers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Fears of a takeover of part of the education system by the Manpower Services Commission, which is funding new technical courses for teenagers in schools, should be dispelled by the composition of the steering group to oversee the initiative, announced today.

The 15-member group, which will be chaired by Mr David Young, the MSC chairman, includes people representing local authority and education interests. Its first meeting will be on Wednesday and the group's first job will be to draw up guidelines for the scheme.

Called the New Technical and Vocational Education Initiative, the £7m scheme will enable 10 local authorities to set up pilot projects for pupils aged 14 to 18. It has aroused controversy not just because of

the way it is funded, by-passing the education service, but also because it is thought it would separate children.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour's education spokesman, says the initiative could bring back selection through the back door.

On the steering group are Mr Richard Knight, Bradford's director of education, Mrs Nikki Harrison, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, Mr Dudley Fiske, education officer at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Mr Philip Merridale, vice-chairman of the Association of County Councils' education committee, Mr John Horrell, chairman of the executive council of the Association of County Councils, and Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

## Queues for mortgages are forming again

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

House buyers are beginning to experience difficulties in obtaining mortgages and there is some evidence that queues are starting to form in spite of record takings by building societies, a survey published today says.

In its latest State of the Trade Inquiry the House Builders' Federation indicates that an increasing number of its members are experiencing difficulty in obtaining mortgages for buyers. Even more builders say they are having trouble in selling houses because of delays in other buyers in the chain being granted mortgages.

Even so, optimism is spreading through the house building industry for the first time in more than two years. Almost all builders taking part in the survey say they expect to maintain or improve their activity this year, and more than half expected an increase in the number of new homes they start this year.

More than half said they will take on workers this year and a

further third expect at least to maintain the present number of men.

Although most of the demand for new homes comes from first-time buyers, the survey indicates increasing interest from existing owners. Lower interest rates and inflation are tempting more people into the market.

Reports of a rapid improvement in house sales are confirmed by the survey. In the last quarter of 1982, the inquiry notes, sales were brisker than usual. Only about one builder in ten reported a decline.

Mr Peter Woodrow, president of the federation, said: "House builders are well placed to take full advantage of the consumer boom expected this year. With falling interest rates and current low house prices, it will certainly be cheaper for many people in 1983 to buy a new house than to rent. An upturn in house building will not only benefit house buyers, it will also create new jobs on a scale few industries can match."

Property column, page 19

## Evangelical support for women priests

By Robert Nowell

Mixed feelings about the ordination of women were shown by the Anglican Evangelical Assembly when it took a vote to find out its members' views on the controversial issue at its inaugural meeting in London on Saturday.

Ordination of women to the diaconate, which the Church of England is now committed to introducing in spite of some reservations from the Catholic wing, was approved by an overwhelming majority of 80 in favour, none against, and eight abstentions.

However, the ordination of women to the presbyterate, in other words, women priests, was approved by the small majority of 48 votes to 29, with 11 abstentions. However, the idea of women bishops gained only 27 votes, with 41 against and 20 abstentions.

This marked difference reflects the view of many Evangelicals that scripture does not allow a woman to have authority over a man in the church.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES 25th ISSUE



## Government plans upset by gas board refusal to endorse oil field bids

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The Government's privatization programme has suffered a setback with the refusal by British Gas to recommend any of the private sector bids that have been made for its stake in the Wytham Farm, Britain's largest offshore oil field.

The board of the corporation has told Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, that it cannot endorse any of the three bids, submitted by oil companies and City investment institutions, on the ground that they seriously undervalue the asset which British Gas believes is worth £450m.

The refusal is likely to worsen the already strained relations between the corporation and the ministers at the Department of Energy, and leaves the Government with a delicate task if it is to avoid new charges of selling national oil assets at too low a price.

It is almost 18 months since the Government announced it was ordering the gas corporation to sell its 50 per cent interest in Wytham Farm, a significant producing oil field on the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset.

Mr Lawson, who has opposed the disposal since the outset and it was last July before bids

were invited from the private sector.

Only three bids have been received, which is fewer than the Government hoped. They are all believed to value the Wytham Farm stake at less than half the £450m price tag put on the field by the corporation.

Comparison of the bids is complicated by the fact that none is a simple cash offer. They are all believed to be



Mr Lawson: Faces unpalatable decision

conditional on future levels of production and on planning permission being obtained for drilling in a remote and environmentally sensitive part of the field.

City sources say that the initial cash payment the Government will receive from two of the three bidders if their offers are accepted will be no more than £100m, less than a quarter of British Gas's valuation. That figure could rise in years to come as production rises.

Ministers are furious at the way British Gas has left them with an unpalatable political decision by putting an initial valuation they feel is based on absurdly optimistic assumptions about the future course of oil prices and the level of reserves in the field.

If they go ahead now, they will be open to accusations of selling the field at a knockdown price. After the Amersham and Britoil share issues, one over-subscribed the other under-subscribed, the Government is aware that denationalizing energy assets is a political minefield. There is speculation that the Wytham Farm disposal may now be dropped until after the election.

## Compulsory interviews may precede divorce

From Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Divorcing couples may be obliged to discuss custody of children and access to them with welfare officers before court hearings, under proposals being considered by an inter-departmental committee of civil servants.

Such interviews are compulsory in many county courts, where magistrates believe they save millions of pounds by solving disputed issues through negotiation. Defended divorces have in some places, for instance, virtually been eliminated.

From the beginning of this year a compulsory interview scheme was started at the Divorce Registry at Somerset House. Announcing the scheme, Mr B. P. Tickle, senior registrar, said: "It is extremely important that no affidavit should be filed until after an unsuccessful conciliation appointment or until the registrar has directed."

A committee of senior civil servants from the Home Office, Treasury, the Central Policy Review Staff and the Lord Chancellor's department is examining the in-court conciliation schemes, and out of court conciliation schemes, where counselling is offered at a much earlier stage.

It is studying evidence from about ten centres in the country where pilot schemes have been running, the most well known of which is the family courts conciliation service at Bristol.

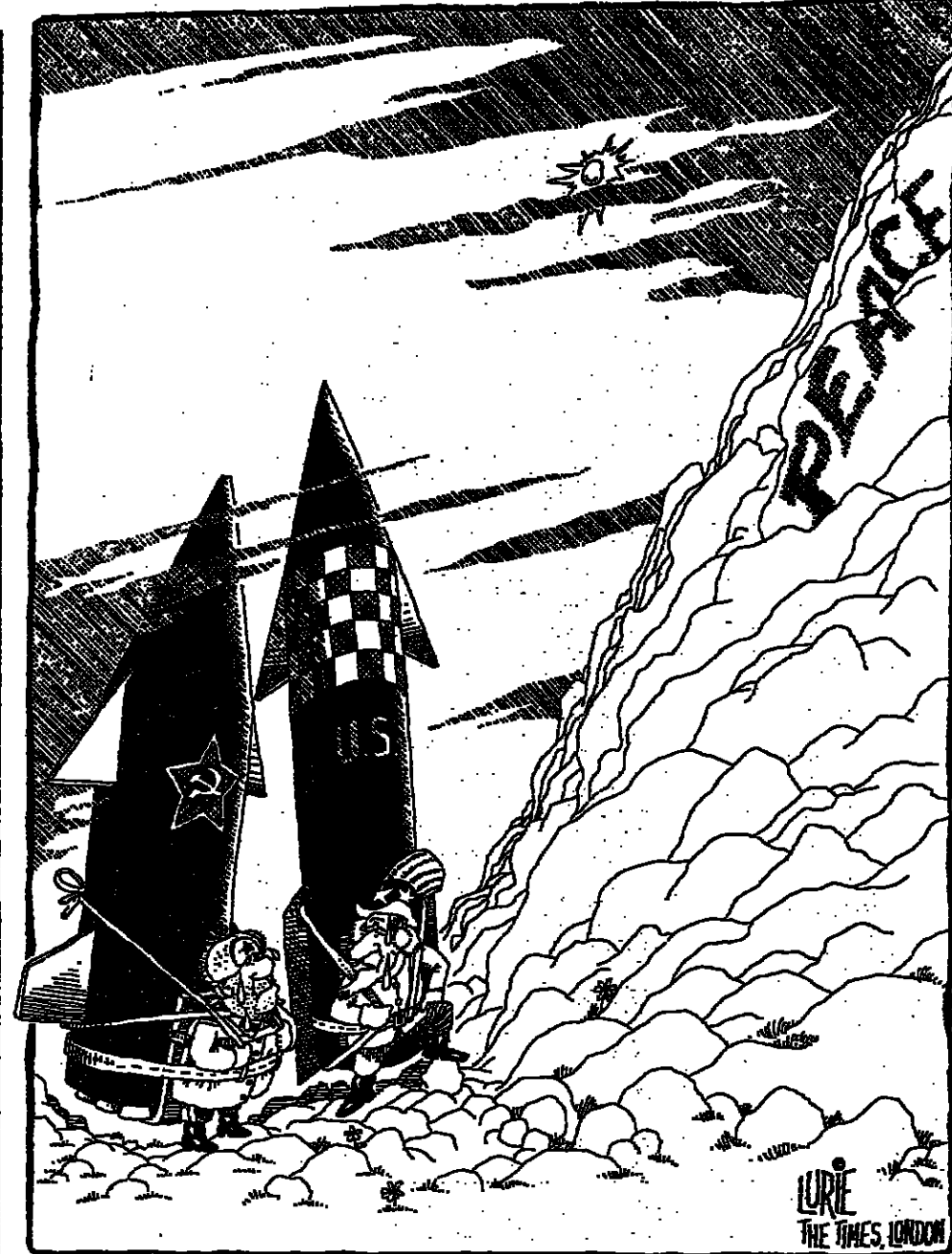
Despite the proven success of schemes such as Bristol's in solving disputes on custody, access, and finance and cutting court costs, it seems likely that, given the constraints on public expenditure, the committee will favour an extension of the in-court conciliation schemes being run by registrars.

They come into play after the parties have filed petitions. They are asked to attend court and meet a welfare officer to resolve some areas of disagreement by negotiation. Barristers specializing in family law, welcome the procedure, but there is some concern over the London scheme's involvement of children.

The interdepartmental committee, which was due to publish its report this month, is not expected to do so until April.

Romance is not dead for British wives, who say they married for love, are still in love with their husbands and would marry the same man again, according to a report published today (the Press Association reports).

The women do not see divorce as an easy way out of a difficult relationship and divorce is itself declining, the survey in *Options* magazine says.



'Let's face it - it won't be a picnic'

## Cruise bargaining has makings of an agreement at Geneva

In the first of four articles examining the state of East-West disarmament negotiations, RODNEY COWTON, Defence Correspondent, assesses the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force talks which are due to resume in Geneva on January 27.

### EAST-WEST ARMS TALKS

Part 1

One of the big political issues of 1983 is going to be the controversy over the proposed deployment of cruise missiles in Britain, West Germany, Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands and of Pershing 2 missiles in West Germany.

While there will be much activity at Greenham Common, and at the Continental sites for these missiles, accompanied by demonstrations in Trafalgar Square and elsewhere, it is likely that the decisive action will be around the negotiating table at Geneva.

The planned deployment of the 572 Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles is a direct response to the Soviet deployment of its SS20 missiles. But it was only one half of that response; the other element was to offer the Soviet Union negotiations on the reduction of ground-based intermediate-range, or theatre, nuclear missiles.

As a result, the Intermediate Range Nuclear Force (INF) 1981. They take place in sessions lasting two months, with a two-month interval between. After three such sessions, they resume on January 27.

The talks are conducted on a bilateral basis between the US and the Soviet Union, with other Nato countries not directly involved, though kept closely in touch by America. So far the results have been obscure rather than clarified the issues.

The American position has the advantage of simplicity and clarity, though in terms of likely political manoeuvrings this year it may also prove to have the

disadvantage of rigidity. Basically, the US has said that if Russia will remove its already deployed land-based theatre nuclear missiles, there will be no need for the West to deploy the cruise and Pershing 2s. This is the zero option.

On Western calculations, Russia has deployed about 350 rather elderly SS4 and SS5 missiles, each with a single warhead, which are in the process of being replaced by the SS20, highly mobile, much more accurate, with a greater range, and three warheads per missile.

Of the SS20s, about 230 are thought to be aimed at West Europe, with the remaining 100 being deployed in the Far East. The West contends that it has no equivalent ground-based missiles in Europe.

In response to the American zero option, the Soviet Union has come up with proposals which embrace not merely ground-based missiles, but also include aircraft with nuclear strike capacity, based not only on the European mainland, but also in aircraft carriers. They have also put in the scales the British and French nuclear deterrent forces.

On this basis, and by the careful exclusion of certain types of their aircraft, and inclusion of some categories of American aircraft, they have come to the conclusion that there is at present rough parity in theatre nuclear weapons.

It was this sort of arithmetic which led, before Christmas, to

Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader, putting forward proposals under which his country would reduce its intermediate nuclear forces in Europe to the same number as those maintained by Britain and France, on condition that America did not deploy either its cruise or Pershing 2 missiles.

The proposals have been rejected by the US for a number of reasons. They would leave America with no deployment whatsoever of theatre nuclear missiles in Europe, while Russia would retain a significant number of SS20s. Because a large proportion of American aircraft are capable of delivering both nuclear and conventional weapons, their elimination as part of a nuclear deal would also reduce the West's capacity for conventional war.

The West also argues that the British and French long range nuclear weapons should not be included, partly because the talks are purely bilateral between Moscow and Washington, partly because those forces are strategic in nature, and therefore not appropriate to the INF talks.

Nevertheless, the US is seeking clarification of the Soviet proposals.

An important difficulty confronting the West is the fact that the planned deployment of the cruise and Pershing 2 missiles has evoked aggressive opposition by the peace movements, which have already created political difficulties on the Continent, and may yet do so in Britain.

It is clear that Russia for military reasons, and the West for political reasons, would love to find a means of averting the deployment for the Cruise and Pershing missiles. In those two acts there ought to be the makings of an agreement.

Next: The strategic arms reduction talks.

## Shadow of Bonn poll falls on EEC

From Ian Murray, Brussels

West Germany is now and for the next six months at the helm of the European Community. Tomorrow in Strasbourg, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister and President of the Council of Ministers, will spell out his hopes and aims for Europe over the next six months, and a daunting list of projects it will be.

But Herr Genscher personifies the dilemma of the West German Government as it faces up to the responsibilities of running the Council of Ministers. For although he is the doyen of all the foreign ministers in the Community, widely respected and known for his experience, he is fighting a desperate domestic election battle for survival. On March 6, when the West German election goes to the polls, all the signs are that he will be voted out of office.

Herr Genscher has, therefore, to decide whether to concentrate on working for Europe or for his own seat in the Bundestag. Most probably he will compromise and skilfully exploit the power and prestige of the presidency to give him invaluable publicity in his struggle for political survival.

He has already achieved considerable attention from the media by calling an urgent meeting in Brussels last week to discuss the fisheries crisis - a meeting he will continue in Strasbourg tomorrow morning in a further effort to break the deadlock. Should he succeed where so many others have failed over the past six years he is not expected modestly to hide the fact from his electorate.

Fishing apart, the West German presidency has put forward an ambitious 13-point programme for action and not all of it can be put off until March 6. Most early progress can be expected, however, on those subjects which will appeal to the West German voter, while few in Bonn are likely to be dragged over unpopular subjects and in particular the British budget problem.

Thus the fight against unemployment, opening up the Community's internal market, fighting against protectionism worldwide, improving East-West relations, and helping Turkey back to democracy, are all likely priorities areas.

Above all, emphasis will be placed on trying to get agreement on the unfortunately named European Act. This proposal for greater European union was largely Herr Genscher's brainchild, helped by his Italian counterpart, Signor Emilio Colombo. The fact that it is known in Community jargon as the "Genscher-Colombo plan" shows why the West German minister will work hard for its approval despite the many misgivings about it in most other member states.

The British budget problem, however, is a very unpopular subject in Bonn, whichever party is in power. Solving it inevitably means that the West German taxpayer must pay more and it was because she understood this that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is said to have promised privately not to press the subject too hard until after the West German elections.

Equally, she has made it clear that she is expecting significant progress on finding a long-term solution by the March summit meeting, so the next West German government will have precious little time to create a worthwhile initiative.

A poll last week drawn up for the European Commission showed that the average West German felt he received less out of Community membership than any other nationality apart from the British. For all his promises tomorrow to the European Parliament, Herr Genscher is unlikely to say anything which might lose him a single vote back home.



Herr Genscher: Desperate fight for survival

## Race factor alarm in murder case

Scotland Yard is dragging its feet in the investigation of a possible racialist motive in the London murder of close relatives of the Real Madrid football player, Laurie Cunningham, the Jamaican-born sportsman said in an interview. The published yesterday (Harry Debelius writes from Madrid).

Mr Cunningham's sister-in-law, Mrs Norma Cunningham, aged 27, and her daughters, Samantha, aged 9, and Syreeta, aged 7, were killed in her flat in Kingsgate Estate, Dalston, last July. The younger girl was found drowned in the bath and her mother and sister were found stabbed to death.

The black British football player said in an interview in the Madrid newspaper, *El Mundo*, that the walls of the flat were marked with the initials of the National Front party, in metallic blue nail polish, and a phrase scratched on the wall of a bedroom read: "This is what we're going to do with all niggers".

He said police told him not to discuss what he saw when he returned to England with his brother and visited the flat immediately after learning of the multiple murder.

"The National Front is very powerful in Dalston", Mr Cunningham said. "There are a lot of skinheads on the streets there, so I don't understand why Scotland Yard is not putting as much effort into investigating in that direction as it is in others. But then, it is also true that there are a lot of members of NF in the police."

"If it had been three white persons killed and the initials 'B P' (Black Power) had been written on the wall they'd have already found the criminal."

## Jewelry theft

Police yesterday were hunting thieves who stole £30,000 of gems from a jewelry shop in South Molton Street, in the West End of London, yesterday. The thieves used keys they had stolen earlier from the home of the shop's owner.

## Round two opens in Stansted battle

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Opponents of expansion at Heathrow airport claim that the proposed fifth terminal could not open before 1993. Critics, led by the British Airports Authority, will argue at a public inquiry which opens tomorrow that the Stansted solution would therefore be a cheaper, faster and more flexible answer to the demand for extra passenger capacity.

The authority, which owns both airports, is at the centre of a planning battle among local councils which want to divert the provision of extra airline capacity away from their areas. The battle began in mid-1980, when the authority applied to Uttlesford District Council, in Essex, for permission to enlarge Stansted into London's third airport.

A year later Uttlesford tried to trump the authority by asking for permission for a fifth terminal at Heathrow. Three are at present in use and a fourth is being built.

The authority spent at least £1m last year at the long public inquiry about expansion at Stansted. It will spend almost as much this year on the new inquiry, which will begin at a hotel near Heathrow. Mr Graham Eyre, QC, the inspector

who presided at Stansted, will again be in charge. He will make simultaneous recommendations to ministers about both projects next year or in 1985.

The authority's opposition to the new terminal is shared by several county district councils to the west of London, the Greater London Council and at least 10 of the capital's borough councils. They want to stop expansion at Heathrow and divert it to Stansted, while councils to the east of the capital are promoting growth at Heathrow while opposing all but the smallest enlargement of Stansted.

Heathrow is now the world's busiest airport and the councils opposing the fifth terminal all believe that its surroundings are too crowded to accept further growth.

British Airways' campaign for a fifth terminal at Heathrow suffered a further setback yesterday with the new evidence from the British Airports Authority (Our Transport Editor writes).

The authority published a new American study which purports to show that the growth in aircraft size, on which BA's case largely rests, will not happen.

## Herpes treatment claim

By Our Medical Correspondent

A claim by American doctors that planned trials of vaccination against genital herpes represents a breakthrough has irritated to enliveners at Birmingham University who say they have already successfully treated cases and demonstrated the potential advantages of vaccination. They are concerned that the British research fails to gain credit.

Dr G. R. B. Skinner and his team from the department of medical microbiology report that in a recent trial the unaffected sexual partners of 60 known sufferers were given two vaccinations. None of the partners developed the disease after a second vaccination.

In another group, where the

consort had already had one attack, a course of three vaccinations stopped further attacks in 75 per cent of the cases. In those patients who did have another attack, the signs and symptoms were less severe and occurred less frequently.

It is normally assumed that 75 per cent of patients whose partners have herpes will develop the disease within a year.

Since the trial, reported in the *British Journal of Venerology*, was completed in June last year, a further 190 people at risk had been vaccinated by the Birmingham team; only two subsequently developed the disease, and they both had mild symptoms.

The vaccine used is prepared from herpes type one, the germ which causes the ordinary cold sore around the mouth. Venereal diseases have frequently noticed that patients who suffer from oral herpes only have mild symptoms with genital herpes.

The work in Birmingham seems to have shown that artificial vaccination with type one oral herpes virus gives an even greater degree of protection than the natural immunity obtained from having a cold sore. The only vaccination side effect noted has been a sore arm, lasting for three to six days. Where a woman did not realize that she was pregnant and had been vaccinated, there have been no demonstrable ill effects to the baby.

The American position has the advantage of simplicity and clarity, though in terms of likely political manoeuvrings this year it may also prove to have the

## Concern over stolen goods sold at auction

Tony Samstag

Two recent sales of stolen goods being sold at auction and subsequently confiscated by the police have raised the issue of what, if any, responsibility the sale rooms have for making good the buyer's loss.

One collector who bought a painting at Christie's in 1978 and had to relinquish it to the police is suing the auctioneers for the return of £19,000, plus a 10 per cent buyers' premium. Christie's, however, claim that the small print in their condition of sale absolves them of responsibility. Details of the case are published in the *Antiques Trade Gazette*.

Last month, a similar case involved two Meissen corkscrew teapots sold by Phillips in October for £5,352 (including the premium and VAT). Phillips promised to repay the buyer, while emphasizing that they were not legally required to do so.

In law, buyers can sue a dealer, even if he acted innocently, for the recovery of money paid for goods that turn out to be stolen. Most auctioneers' conditions of sale state, however, that no warranty is given and they only act as agents for the vendor.

One man died in the fire and 23 others were injured, some with perforated eardrums, and officials warned Newark residents with respiratory problems to stay indoors.

## Papandreou hails Prague initiative

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The most positive and unreserved Nato response to the Warsaw Pact's offer of a non-aggression pact has come from Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister of Greece, who called for a summit between the two blocks to discuss the proposal.

Hailing the Prague initiative as a "courageous offer" to the Atlantic alliance, Mr Papandreou expressed the hope that it would elicit a "substantial response" from Nato countries.

Using almost the words of the declaration, the Greek leader said that since the "zero solution" was still not possible, "we should at least bring about

a radical reduction of medium-range nuclear missiles on the basis of the principle of equal security".

Mr Papandreou said he hoped a positive response would come not only from Nato countries, but also from the conferences in Vienna, Geneva, and Madrid, or "even within the framework of a summit meeting of the two blocks".

The Greek reaction to the Prague declaration is in line with the Papandreou government's non-conformist philosophy within Nato that gives decent priority over the current misgivings about the effectiveness of Western security.

Mr Papandreou has publicly opposed the deployment by Nato of medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, said at the weekend that Soviet block proposals for a non-aggression pact were worth considering, but he described them as a clever move and urged caution in any negotiations on the subject with Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader (Reuters reports).

The Canadian position was cautiously guarded he said, but Mr Andropov had "hit upon some tactically sound avenues".

## New Jersey oil plant fire burns out

From Our Own Correspondent

A thick curtain of slate-blue smoke was still draped over Newark, New Jersey, yesterday, just across the harbour from New York City, as a huge petroleum plant fire burnt itself out.

Firemen refused to approach the blaze or attempt to do other than prevent it spreading.

One man died in the fire and 23 others were injured, some with perforated eardrums, and officials warned Newark residents with respiratory problems to stay indoors.

Home next winter for Mr Philip Groves and his wife, Mairwen, and their daughter will be a caravan on the Gower Peninsula buffeted by the strong winds which will whip off the wild Atlantic rollers. For the last 34 years has been condemned as unfit by Swansea City Council and is to be demolished.

Seven other families in the picturesque West Glamorgan village of Croft are also to be moved out of their homes because of the weaknesses which threaten to bring reinforced concrete slabs crashing to the ground. Mrs Groves, aged 57, and the other householders learned that their houses were dangerous in a hot sunny day in July, 1981, when a council minibus pulled up outside their semi-detached properties and a council official stepped out to tell them the bad news.

Mrs Groves said: "It was a terrible shock to learn that the house in which I have lived

ever since being married could collapse like a pack of cards. I have lived in this little village all my life and the thought of leaving Croft is terrible".

She added: "Until that day we had lived in the house fairly happily. We moved in when we were married and it was so nice. It has hot water, a bathroom and toilet and it was so much better than what I had known before."

There are more than 25,000 Airey homes in Britain and their structural faults are causing concern to local authorities throughout the land. The problem has been caused because the metal pipes which form the central core of the support pillars are expanding and rusting, causing the concrete to flake and crack.

Mrs Groves said: "Apart from the fact that the houses have always been cold, there is no obvious sign that anything is wrong with them. But on a quiet day, where the wind is not blowing, you can hear the house cracking. Some of the concrete slabs are now only hanging on wires."

"We should be paying £18.20 in rent, but the council has allowed us to keep to the old rate because the houses are condemned. Until the structural troubles were pointed out, our main complaint was the cold and the cost of heating. There is

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WINTER SALE  
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## Onslow's gaffe strains relations with Harare

From Stephen Taylor Harare

Mr Cranley Onslow, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, flew out of Harare on Saturday leaving behind him a gaffe which has both government and opposition circles disconcerted by Whitehall's new hard-nosed view of Zimbabwe.

Although reassurances that Britain is not about to pull the military and economic aid rug from under Zimbabwe have seemed to have been accepted here, the air of strain over the visit was not eased by a diplomatic gaffe by Mr Onslow at a public meeting.

The Zimbabweans were offended in the first place that he had been briefed to consult Mr Ian Smith, the Republic of South Africa's Prime Minister, in the process of reviewing policy towards Mr Robert Mugabe's government. Questioned critically on this matter at a meeting on Thursday night, Mr Onslow concluded by reassuring his listeners: "I am glad to say relations between Britain and Rhodesia are excellent."

This point and others in Mr Onslow's address to the British Zimbabwe Society were seized upon by *The Herald* newspaper, which clearly felt he had been more equivocal than he ought over South Africa's attempts to undermine Zimbabwe. The headline over the front page report read: "SA seeking peace" says UK envoy.

At a press conference before leaving Harare Mr Onslow defended the decision to see Mr Smith, as well as other members of the white community, and denied it implied approval of Mr Smith's opinions on Zimbabwe.

### Women crushed

Five women died yesterday and more than 30 people were injured in a sudden crush caused as a gate was opened at Harare airport just before the arrival of Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, for an official visit. The tragedy was not noticed by most of the thousands of people gathered at the airport.

Mr Smith's November meeting in London with Mrs Thatcher is however seen here as meaning something akin to that. It is also believed that the decision to reappraise relations with Harare.

Allegations of human rights violations made by Mr Smith and others and supported by some evidence have had hard-line conservatives in Britain, who were suspicious of the independence settlement from the start, calling for aid to be suspended. Local officials are confident after Mr Onslow's visit that it will not happen. It is understood that there is no question of the 102-man British military training contingent being withdrawn, although it will probably be run down by about 50 per cent over the next year as more Zimbabwean military trainers emerge.

The question of assisting Zimbabwe to rebuild the air force shattered by sabotage explosives last July is less clear cut. The Government will not have difficulty buying the Hawker Hunter fighters it wants to replace those destroyed at Thornhill air base but Britain is unlikely to provide the vital

ground maintenance staff requested.

This is being explained as a consequence of a shortage of qualified personnel in Britain but it will probably be seen here as a sanction against reports that white air force officers suspected of involvement in the sabotage have been tortured.

Harare was decked out in welcoming flags, banners and posters yesterday to greet the arrival of Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, and crowds lined the road from the airport to the capital.

The welcome to the Chinese leader, who is on the eighth leg of an African tour, was particularly warm because China gave strong backing to the ruling Zanu (PF) Party in the early days of the guerrilla war.

At a dinner for Mr Zhao last night Mr Mugabe said no country had helped his party more.

LUSAKA: On Saturday, Mr Zhao accused South Africa of carrying out acts of sabotage and aggression against neighbouring countries and called for mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria Government (Reuters reports).

Speaking at a Zambian state banquet held in his honour at a Lusaka hotel, Mr Zhao said South Africa's white-minority Government was fighting a last-ditch battle against approaching independence in Namibia and against its own black majority.

"It repeatedly carries out political subversion and economic sabotage against, and even launches armed raids and military interventions into neighbouring countries, thus disrupting peace and stability in southern Africa," he said.



## Sadat challenges his accusers

Mr Ismat Sadat, brother of the late Egyptian President, addressing the judges at his resumed trial on corruption charges in Cairo yesterday. In an impassioned speech from the prisoners' enclosure, punctuated by loud applause from several members of his family, Mr Sadat invited the state to find and take back the millions of Egyptian pounds he is accused of swindling, but declared he had nothing like the fortune he is alleged to have amassed (Reuters reports).

He pleaded not guilty to a 24-count indictment which said he and his family had piled up ££124m (about \$900m) through fraud, black market dealing, peddling influence during the

rule of his brother, and selling Egyptian food. Mr Sadat said: "The family fortunes now amount to about 1,800,000 pounds at the most. If these other millions are true then I am ready to sign a paper right now handing them over on behalf of my family."

In the prisoners' enclosure with him were two of his sons, Galal and Talat, all being held in custody. The prosecution has demanded that they be jailed for a year and their property seized. It is also seeking confiscation of goods owned by one of Mr Sadat's wives and 10 of his 15 children.

Uproar broke out in the packed

courtroom when Mrs Ihsan Shafie, a woman lawyer unconnected with the case, jumped up to denounce Mr Sadat and his family. "I am speaking on behalf of the people," Mrs Shafie said.

A defence lawyer threatened to withdraw from the case unless Mrs Shafie was silenced and spectators were ordered to stop bursting into applause after every speech.

The case has been strongly pictured in the Egyptian press as symptomatic of the corruption which allegedly reigned in the later years of President Sadat. It was brought under the "law of shame" enacted by the late Egyptian leader to combat corruption.

## Guards held hostage at Sing Sing

New York - Prisoners at Ossining prison, which used to be known popularly as Sing Sing, 30 miles up river from New York City, seized 16 guards yesterday and held them hostage. Negotiations were carried out by telephone between the prisoners and a special "crisis intervention unit" (Michael Hamlyn writes).

In the morning one of the guards, who had been hit on the head with a plank, was released in exchange for medicine, including an epilepsy drug and antibiotics.

A spokesman for New York State's Department of Corrections said all the hostages were safe, though some suffered minor injuries. No details were given of the prisoners' demands.

## Trail of damage in car chase

Bonn (AP) - Eight police cars, including an armoured limousine used to protect politicians, were damaged and four officers injured during a half-hour chase after a Mercedes driven by a Moroccan who went through a red light near Bonn.

Police fired pistol shots in vain attempts to halt the Moroccan. When forced to stop, he attacked police with a sword and said: "I am Jesus Christ and was born 2,000 years ago." The damage caused by the driver was put at up to £25,000.

## Peru provinces hit by floods

Lima (AFP) - The Peruvian Government has declared a state of emergency in the north-west provinces of Piura and Tumbes after torrential rains in the eastern slopes of the Andes caused three rivers to overflow and flooded parts of the city of Piura.

An emergency had already been declared in Cuzco province in the south-east, where hailstorms, heavy rain and gales caused landslides and destroyed crops. One-tenth of Peru is now under a state of emergency.

## Prices soar in Indonesia

Jakarta - Prices climbed throughout Indonesia after a 45 per cent rise in fuel prices introduced by the Government to combat the recession and falling international oil prices.

Official announcements said domestic sea cargo and passenger rates would rise 23 per cent, air fares by 20 per cent, taxi fares by about 20 per cent and postal and telegraph rates by 10 per cent.

## Munich brawl

Munich (Reuters) - Scuffles broke out yesterday between anti-Nazi demonstrators and people meeting at a beer cellar to honour Hans-Ulrich Rudel, Nazi Germany's most highly decorated war pilot, who died last month. About 20 young people, who shouted "Nazis out of Munich" through loudspeakers were removed by police.

## Claret crooks

Paris (Reuters) - A gang of thieves known for its taste in wines struck again in the Bordeaux region, making off with choice claret worth 200,000 francs (about £18,000) from Chateau Timberlay. The gang has collected 50,000 bottles of vintage wine in the past two years.

## Wife jailed

Washington (Reuters) - Mrs Mary Sue Hubbard, wife of L Ron Hubbard, founder of the Church of Scientology, was sentenced here to four years in prison and fined \$10,000 (about £6,250) for her part in a conspiracy to steal documents relating to the church from federal government buildings.

## Late homage

Paderborn (Reuters) - The Soviet Union is to allow some relatives to visit the graves of German soldiers who died in Soviet prison camps during the Second World War. Herr Adolf Barth, a war graves commission leader, announced here. Fifteen relatives will visit three camps this summer.

## Strike success

Lima (AFP) - The 200,000 inhabitants of Ayacucho in south-east Peru obeyed a 24-hour strike call by the Maoist guerrillas of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) on Saturday. Trade and transport in the city were paralysed.

## Ban lifted

Madrid (Reuters) - The Spanish Government lifted a ban on Gibraltar residents in Spain from going home across the border, which was partly lifted after it reopened on December 15 after 13 years of blockade.

## In the dark

Islamabad (AFP) - A failure at Pakistan's main hydro-electric station on the Indus River left much of the country without power for several hours over the weekend. The cause is not known.

## Mandela raid police seize a bedspread

Johannesburg (Reuters) - Police have raided the home of the wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed black nationalist leader, and seized books, documents, a bedspread and other items, neighbours said.

The raid took place as two white opposition members of Parliament were visiting Mrs Winnie Mandela's home in the Orange Free State town of Brandfort on Friday.

One of them, Mrs Helen Suzman, said the bedspread taken by police seemed to be the colour of the banned African National Congress (ANC) or Zulu Chief Gatsha Buthe's Inkatha Movement.

A police spokesman in Pretoria confirmed the raid and said a case was being investigated for submission to the Attorney-General. Under a five-year banning order made last month, Mrs Mandela is restricted to Brandfort, where she has lived since being ordered out of the black satellite city of Soweto, outside Johannesburg, in May 1977.

Indian course: The South African Indian Council is expected to join the Coloured Labour Party in agreeing to participate in the tricameral

parliamentary system for whites, Coloureds and Indians (Ray Kennedy writes).

Mr Amichand Rajbansi, the council's executive chairman, said this weekend it would give the system "a fair trial".

He said: "I do not think our consciences will suffer if we play our roles right."

The Labour Party's qualified acceptance of the reform package last week has already shattered political ranks.

The official white opposition, the Progressive Federal Party (PFF), is unable to decide whether to support the reform proposals as a step in the right direction or to dismiss them as a clever effort to maintain the status quo.

Double premiums: Black motorists with a leading South African "insurance firm" will have to pay double the premiums paid by white drivers from next month.

Mr Peter Moss, deputy general manager of the Johannesburg-based Agis insurance company, said this weekend: "There is nothing racialistic in our attitude. Our statistics show that black people, including Indians and Coloureds, claim more money than they pay."

## Bulgarian face to face with Agca

From Peter Nichols Rome

Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist who tried to kill the Pope in May 1981, was brought face to face for seven hours on Saturday with Mr Sergei Antonov, the Bulgarian airline official he claims helped him to organize the assassination attempt.

Agca is serving a life sentence. It was their second encounter since Mr Antonov's arrest last autumn on suspicion of complicity in the plot. The meeting took place in Rome's Rebibbia prison.

A decision about Mr Antonov's arrest is now not expected before the end of the week.

After their first encounter in November, the Turkish press published reports alleging that Agca apologized to Mr Antonov for involving him but said he could not avoid doing so. Agca was said to have addressed him by the name Bailamic, which he claimed was the code-name used by Mr Antonov. The reports said Mr Antonov insisted he had never seen Agca before.

## Sick Zia misses Cabinet action on drugs

From Our Correspondent Islamabad

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan was taken ill and was unable to preside yesterday at his first Cabinet meeting since returning from the US and Canada late last month. A spokesman said General Zia was unable to chair the meeting because of "some indisposition" and Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan took his place.

The meeting decided to raise the maximum punishment for drug use and illegal trade of drugs to life imprisonment under the relevant Islamic codes.

## 15,000 police to control Assam elections

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi

Anti-government agitators have launched a campaign of disruption to try to prevent elections in the troubled state of Assam, in north-east India. The Government has sent 15,000 men of the paramilitary central reserve police to help to keep order and ensure that elections for the state assembly are held on February 14.

But the agitators, who are locked in a long-running dispute with the Government over the migration of people from Bangladesh, are determined to prevent elections, just as they did three years ago.

## Soviet prisoner claim

Islamabad (AP) - A Soviet soldier, initially said by newspapers here to be a defector, is in fact being held prisoner by an Afghan guerrilla group in Peshawar, near the Afghan border, guerrilla sources said yesterday.

The sources, who have been reliable in the past, would not say where the soldier was being held but they identified him as Private Alexandrov Bagagan Giforgyan, aged 22 and born in Armenia. He was said to have been taken prisoner on December 29, two days after the third anniversary of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Private Giforgyan would be the ninth Soviet prisoner to be kept alive by his captors since the intervention. Three are believed to be held in guerrilla camps near the Pakistan border.

## Quake team inspects ski slopes

From Ivor Davis Los Angeles

A group of scientists this weekend joined thousands of skiers on the slopes of the Mammoth Lakes resort, but instead of bringing their skis and poles they travelled with an assortment of earth-measuring instruments.

For the hills - and mountains around the popular High Sierra resort town, some 300 miles north of Los Angeles, are alive with tiny earthquakes that have been shaking, rattling and rolling the community for the past few days.

Since last Thursday more than 1,000 earthquakes have shaken the area. After initial panic, when the bigger quakes recorded 5.5 and 5.6 on the Richter scale, they dropped to 2 and the skiers returned to the slopes.

With them came more than a dozen scientists to try to decide what is causing the jolts and to assess what a plug of molten rock is doing just a few miles below the surface.

There have been no serious injuries and residents and visitors have become accustomed to the hiccupping of the earth.

The scientist will decide what to do about a "volcanic hazards notice". If it is changed to a "watch", it implies that geologists have recognized an active process at work underground.

Scientists will also try to measure how much, if any, of the ground south-east of the resort has been deformed by the rash of quakes. Thursday's jolts comprised the biggest activity since four large shocks hit the area in 1980.

A spokeswoman at Mammoth Lakes said business on the ski slopes was back to normal on Saturday.

## SS killer Himmler was hero to his daughter

From Michael Binyon Bonn

Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler, head of the Gestapo and personally responsible for the death of at least 10 million people, was to his daughter Gudrun a shining hero, a powerful god who could even decide the date for the family Christmas: "Sometimes December 17th, at others the 20th or 21st, because Pappi can only be present then."

For Gudrun, such rare wartime visits to the Himmlers family chalet at Grunnd were a time of excitement and joy, and she faithfully recorded them in her diary. He came back once on May 20 1942 from Holland, bringing "many vegetables, fruit and 150 tulips" - something she had never seen before. "Pappi" as Himmler called his daughter, then aged 12, described his arrival: "It was wonderful weather. We were sitting on the terrace in the evening... suddenly there was a loud foot, we wondered who was allowed to do that, and there was Pappi."

Pappi swallowed cyanide three years later when a British patrol to which he had gone on disguise discovered his identity. Gudrun fled with her mother Margarette Himmler to the Tyrol, recording on April 29 1945 - the last entry on her diary: "These are hard times for the world and especially for us after the war Margarette



Father and daughter: Himmler with Gudrun in 1938.

became a nurse and died a few years ago.

Gudrun Himmler is married, has three children and lives quietly as a 33-year-old housewife in Munich. Extracts from her long-lost diary, recently discovered and have been published in the German weekly magazine *Stern*.

They show a world dominated by her father, his position and influence. "The whole nation looks at him. He always stands back and never pushes himself to the front. She began her diary in the summer of 1941, recording the daily events of her glass-domed existence, the comings and goings at home.

"Mummy is going to Berlin and I'm very sad and cry. Pappi calls up twice a week." And "I've got a new tortoise. She's called Lieselotte".

Her life was rather lonely, her father always working. But there were occasional excitements - a visit to Munich, luxury accommodation at the Four Seasons Hotel, a seat in the royal box at the theatre, other girls making sure she was comfortable ("because I am G. H. I.").

But the shadow of the war began gradually to dominate the diary. Aunt Edith came from Berlin to live with them because of the worsening bombing of the big cities - she brought two children and Aunt Hilde brought three, but relations were strained.

The Himmlers upstairs, Gudrun said, "are always puffing themselves up, we only have formal contacts with them, and every other Saturday evening they are invited."

Ironically, another young girl, born in the same year, was also recording the events of the war, hidden in the back of a house in Amsterdam - Anne Frank. She also idealized her father, wrote of the hopes for an end to the war.

Gudrun Himmler said on November 1 that if peace came "we will certainly get a country estate in the east... Yes, if only peace came, but that'll be a long time. And the battles are so indistinguishably fierce. In the East we were at the gates of Stalingrad, and now we're

behind Kiev. Unfortunately a lot of Germans don't believe in victory any more. But we must win."

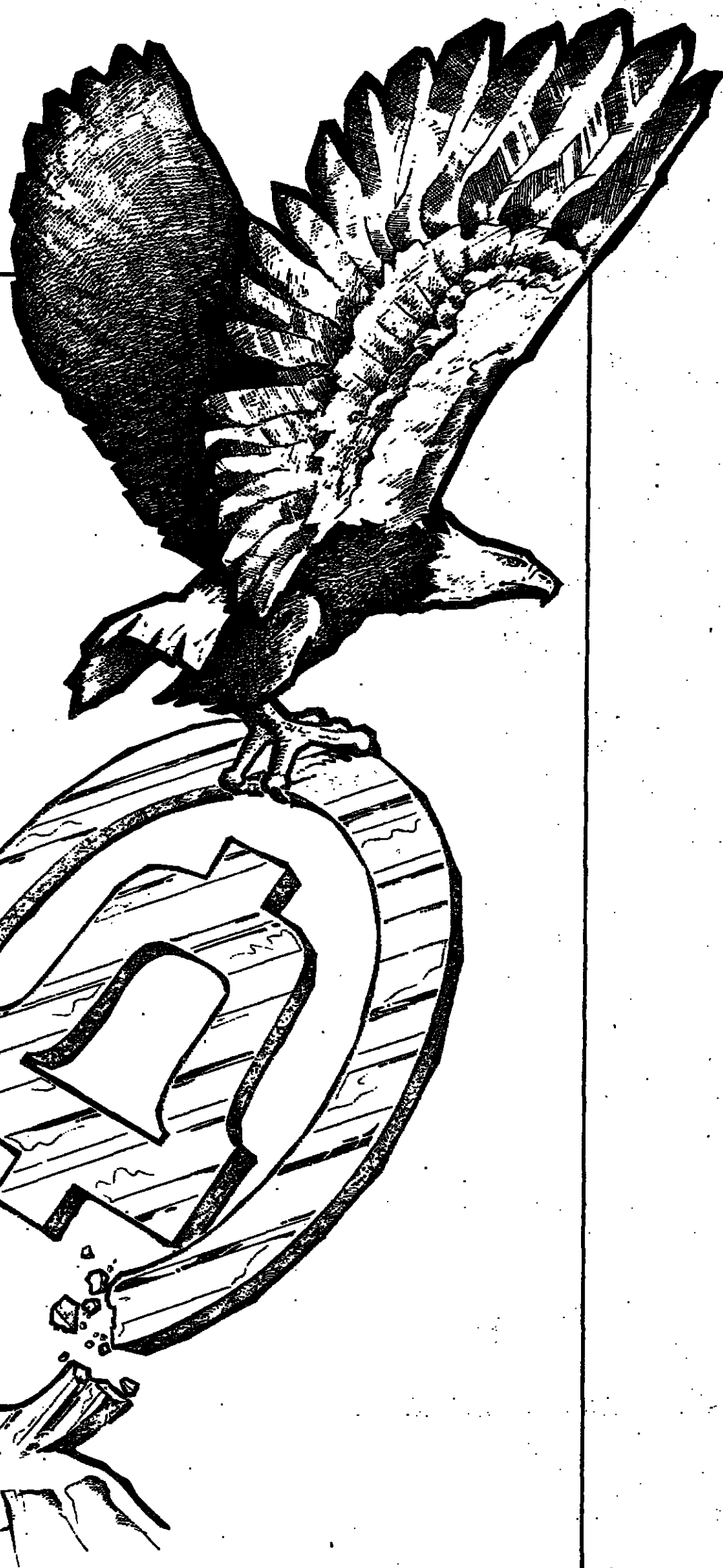
On June 6 Anne Frank wrote excitedly about D-Day, about the jubilation in their tiny hiding place, and wrote three weeks later of the German retreat on each front. Gudrun Himmler said on July 15: "A

shelter has now been built in the playground, which is awful, all that noise and always prisoners, and then we're not allowed to go here or there."

She went on to talk of everyone believing so strongly in victory, and as the daughter of such a popular and distinguished man I must also believe in it. It's just unimaginable that we should lose."

Victim: Anne Frank - parallel diary.





## The FT calls it 'the business news-story of a lifetime'

How the end of a monopoly brings a new beginning to the world's largest corporation.

Over the next year, American Telephone and Telegraph will give up its monopoly-control of America's telephone service.

A giant corporation which today employs a million people, and has assets greater than Exxon, Mobil and General Motors put together, is splitting itself into pieces. The search is on for new markets all over the world.

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The answers are contained in a series of exclusive articles which begin in the FT today. Can you afford to miss them?

**No FT...no comment.**

## Argentina exploits the Cuban connexion

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York

Latin American politics, jolted by the Falklands war, is settling back into its old complexities, but Argentina remains defiant. Not only are Washington's Buenos Aires, is pursuing its newly found friendship with Nicaragua and Cuba with a vengeance.

The most striking example of this policy will be the presence of Señor Juan Ramón Aguirre Lanari, the Argentine Foreign Minister, at a meeting of the executive body of the non-aligned countries which begins today in Managua to discuss the strife in Central America and provoke memories of the Falklands war.

Nicaragua, seeking to undermine the regional gathering that endorsed United States policy in Central America last autumn, called for the meeting knowing the non-aligned countries provide it with its most sympathetic forum.

Despite intense lobbying by Washington against the Sandinist Government, it won a diplomatic victory by winning a two-year term on the Security Council, a measure of Third World support.

The meeting also comes in the wake of ministerial talks attended by Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama on new initiatives for defusing the Central American crisis and will attempt to seize the growing displeasure with Washington's tactics, which shun negotiated settlements in El Salvador's civil war and in tensions between Honduras and Nicaragua.

After the release of authoritative reports of CIA operations to subvert the Sandinist Government, the military consistently issuing warnings of imminent aggression, not only feels vindicated but has enough fuel in its propaganda war with Washington to make the non-aligned meeting more than a success.

For propaganda reasons Argentina's attendance gains in significance. Señor Aguirre Lanari's participation pays back a debt incurred during the Falklands conflict, when Nicaragua sounded one of the more unequivocal voices of support.

Nicaragua in a sense has plotted the path the Argentine military regime is following for reinforced international support.

over the Falklands to bring Britain to the negotiating table. For that purpose Argentina needs Cuba, the leader of the non-aligned and an ally and protector of Nicaragua.

In Managua Señor Aguirre Lanari will be attempting to lay the groundwork for unqualified support for negotiations from the non-aligned movement when it holds its summit in Delhi in March.

Last week an Argentine foreign ministry delegation held consultations in Havana to outline an offensive for those members that choose to give either their tacit or outright support to Britain in the UN General Assembly last November.

The hope is that by the next General Assembly Britain's diplomatic influence over the Caribbean countries and moderate Arabs will have waned and the international pressure for negotiations, now somewhat ambiguous, will be nearly absolute. Thus Washington's vote of support in the General Assembly is accepted. But keeping the US in abeyance is strategically wiser.

## Kirk drama loses sight of real issues

From Christopher Follett Esbjerg

The publicity surrounding Captain Kent Kirk's challenge to Britain's new 12-mile offshore fishing limits last week has obscured the reality behind Denmark's beating intransigence in the EEC fisheries dispute.

At stake for Denmark is its position as the European Community's biggest fish exporter. Employing 100,000 people, it is the world's third largest exporter after the United States and Japan. There are 15,000 Danish fishermen at sea, the same number of people employed ashore and a further 70,000 working in auxiliary industries.

Although representing only 1.5 per cent of Denmark's gross domestic product, fishing plays a more important role in Denmark's economy than in that of any other EEC nation.

The common fisheries policy, agreed by Denmark's EEC partners last month, offered Britain, the biggest EEC fishing nation, 35 per cent of the total catch in Community waters, allotting Denmark about 23 per cent, roughly 7 per cent less than it had demanded.

According to the Danish Fishery Industry Export Association, the policy as it stands would have cost Denmark more than 7,000 jobs and at least 1,000m kroner (£72m) a year in lost exports.

Denmark exports fish worth 7,000m kroner a year, 85 per cent of it for human consumption, mainly top quality white fish such as plaice and cod, which reaches the centre of Europe in time to be sold the following day, thanks to an efficient distribution system. The remainder is industrial fish.

Denmark is today the main exporter of fish to West Germany and the Benelux countries as well as dominating the British, French, Swiss and Italian markets.

At the root of the controversy with Britain are questions of cost-effectiveness and structure. Denmark's fishing fleet of 7,000 boats is almost wholly privately owned by the skippers themselves. While British fishing boats are normally manned by eight men, the Danes have crews of four who share 50 per cent of the total catch value, the rest going to running costs and reinvestment.

It is the size of the catch which determines the earnings of Danish fishermen, who can earn up to £20,000 in a successful year.

Since 1975 Esbjerg, which is Denmark's biggest fishing port, has modernized and halved its fishing fleet to 315 vessels. It had just begun to feel more optimistic about the future. Fifty per cent of Esbjerg's 1,300 fishermen's catches feed the port's three fishmeal plants, one of which is the biggest in the EEC.

At the heart of Danish fishing organizations' criticisms of the common fisheries policy is their conviction that it transfers fishing quotas from efficient industries to those less capable of effectively processing catches, leaving the consumer to pay the bill.

## Crime wave worries Russians

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union's top law enforcement officer has expressed alarm about the lack of public order in some parts of the country and said that people are deeply disturbed by the activities of criminals.

In an article yesterday in *Pravda*, Mr Alexander Reukov, Procurator-General, said: "Any indulgence towards malicious criminals cannot be tolerated."

Mr Reukov made special mention of hooligans, drunkards, speculators, grafters, embezzlers and people who disrupt production. He said that punishment for vehicle thefts and small-scale robbery would now be more severe.

The Procurator-General said that in the city of Gorky, east Moscow, residents complained that it was dangerous to walk in the streets at night.

He criticized the Gorky authorities for complacency and said several policemen and law officials had been punished for not carrying out their duties.

Law and order has been a major theme of the Soviet media since the new party leader, Mr Yuri Andropov, launched a big campaign against corruption and petty crime. Last month, the leadership announced longer prison terms.

In his *Pravda* article, Mr Reukov said: "Instances of covering up crimes are persisting in the organs of internal affairs."

He said that in Georgia higher penalties for burglary had justified themselves and that other republics had adopted similar measures. Criminals had often been restored to their former status in society. In future, people who ignored court decisions banning certain individuals from particular posts would be prosecuted.

Habitual criminals should feel the full weight of Soviet legal retribution and tougher measures were now being taken against them, Mr Reukov said.



Poznan's towering achievement

A crane lifting one of two restored towers into position atop a Franciscan church in Poznan, Poland. The twin towers had been missing from the church since Poznan's liberation in 1945. In a three-day operation the giant crane first lifted the bases of the two cupolas 180 ft above street level, and then brought up the tops of the towers, each weighing 17½ tons, finally restoring the church to its original splendour.

## Polish journalist attacks martial law in church

From Roger Boyes, Podkowa Lesna, Poland

In an unusual challenge to the Polish authorities, a leading journalist who is a former Communist, yesterday criticized martial law and spoke with rare candour about relations between Warsaw and Moscow.

Mr Stefan Bratkowski, former head of the Polish journalists' union, was speaking to 500 worshippers at a church in the former spa resort of Podkowa Lesna. He described martial law as a military success but a political failure which had widened the gap between the leaders and the led.

"More of society is convinced that martial law was aimed at society as a whole rather than at small groups of extremists," Mr Bratkowski said in his first address to a public gathering since martial law was declared. Mr Bratkowski, who was interrupted by occasional ripples of applause, analysed the reasons for martial law, claiming that it was the result of competing and frustrated power elites - and said that Poland must experience genuine reforms.

The Soviet Union too had to reform itself in order to relieve the strains on its economy and the prospect of unrest in the Baltic and central Asian republics.

But in the Soviet Union, in contrast to Poland, such pressure for change had to come from the leadership rather than popular discontent because Russians identified with their state. "This is not very easy for us to understand but these are the facts," Mr Bratkowski said.

The journalist, who was expelled from the Communist Party before the declaration of martial law, called for "agreements - a more liberal" in Poland, as for an honest appraisal of the Soviet-Polish relationship.

## Palme budget will hit 'lame ducks'

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Mr Olof Palme's recently elected socialist Government today presents an austerity budget aimed at correcting the imbalance in the Swedish economy. The budget is unlikely to find favour with either the party's left wing or the powerful union movement.

The budget statement by Mr Kjell-Olof Feldt, the Finance Minister, cuts state subsidies to "lame duck" industries and contains no mention of many promised reforms, among them the controversial socialist election pledge to introduce so-called wage-earner funds which would allow the unions to buy shares in private industry.

The aim of the budget, Mr Feldt says, is to break the recent trend towards an annual increase of the central government deficit.

He says the budget deficit for the 1983-84 financial year is expected to amount to 90,000m kroner (£7,500m), compared with 91,800m kroner for the current financial year. In terms of gross national product it will fall from 14 per cent to around 12.5 per cent.

"By way of a very restrictive budgetary process it has been possible to keep the deficit

down, despite the fact that the expenditures for interest payments will increase by almost 11 billion Swedish kroner," Mr Feldt says.

He admits that inflation will increase to an estimated 11.5 per cent, while wages will increase by 7 per cent, and he says unemployment is likely to remain at present levels (estimated at 3.5 per cent, but thousands of workers are in subsidized employment and thousands more on reeducation courses with little hope of finding a job when they finish).

The Government's forecast for the economy gives a growth rate in 1983 of 1.4 per cent, equal, Mr Feldt says, to the average for the industrialized nations but higher than the European average.

He says that private consumption will fall by 2.5 per cent as real incomes are cut and that total consumption will be cut by more than 1 per cent.

But the improved competitiveness of Swedish industry, from the Government's 16 per cent devaluation will allow Swedish companies to expand in both export and domestic markets.

## Swedes seized in Riga

From Our Correspondent, Stockholm

A Swedish woman and her daughter, arrested while visiting relatives in Latvia, were expected to be deported today in what diplomats here saw as possible retaliation for the expulsion of three Russians by Sweden at Christmas.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry said the woman, Mrs Baita Vitols, aged 45, Latvian-born, had been interrogated for 12 hours by police in Riga, the Latvian capital, before being told she would be expelled.

Diplomats in Stockholm said the deportation could be the first move in a clampdown on Swedish visitors following Sweden's expulsion of two Soviet diplomats and a Russian civilian accused of spying.



# The Times Profile: The House of Indira Gandhi

## The family plot at No 1 Safdarjang Road

Indira Nehru Gandhi's great-grandfather was a police chief in the service of the last Moghul emperor of India. Her grandfather was a successful lawyer who sent his son to Harrow and later exchanged English plumage for coarse nationalist homespun. Her father was chosen by Mahatma Gandhi to rule free India and was prime minister for 17 years.

She herself does so for a salary of £140 a month, plus perks. Her taciturn younger son, Sanjay, is sobering to reflect, might have inherited her chair. Her diffident elder son, Rajiv, took his place at her side. Her jealous daughter-in-law, Maneka, persona non grata at court, broods on the sidelines. This is the House of Nehru, the phenomenon of Indian politics, the power in the land.

Mrs Gandhi herself is now entering the fourth year of her fourth premiership, her fifteenth year in power. She is fit, lean and active, but she is 65 and it is reasonable to consider the question of succession. India's democracy is, after all, a singular one, with its elements of autocracy and dynasty.

There is some resentment of this, but no strong opposition because it meets a yearning in the Indian psyche. As the *Times of India* put it in 1981, "India needs an emperor or empress. People crave an individual to whom they can entrust their destiny."

The Nehru family have always considered themselves special, a cut above. They have enjoyed the advantages of apertness, free of the shackles of caste and regional and linguistic loyalties. Indian but also outward-looking, well-off Kashmiri Brahmins, broadminded, western-educated patricians, Nehru equipped that he was India's first English prime minister.

There was no question of the strong-willed Indira submitting to orthodox arranged marriage. Feroze Gandhi, a Parsi, proposed in Paris and bestowed on her a surname of incalculable value - there is still a belief, both within and outside India, that Indira is related to the Mahatma.

The Gandhis (Feroze died in 1960) had two sons: Rajiv married Sonia, an Italian he met at Cambridge (and his mother loves Italian cooking); Sanjay married Maneka, a Sikh model who liked wearing jeans, considered racy in India.

Indira ran her father's home during his premiership, and while it is arguable whether he consciously prepared her for power, (and she denies that he did), her years as chaperone were a unique apprenticeship.

She is, of course, quite different from the idealist who ruled in the first flush of independence and delighted in the debates that rolled over the Lok Sabha's Westminster-green benches. Her lonely, and uncertain upbringing with an adored mother who died young, and a frequently absent father, left her insecure, mistrustful, intolerant of criticism, fiercely determined to be independent to dominate. No one ever pushed her around and no one outside her family has grown close to her. She has never been hamstrung by ideology or policy.

After the Congress Party chief made her premier in 1966, believing her pliable, she singlemindedly constructed a political keep and moat, concentrating power in her own hands, reducing the importance of cabinet, parliament and states. She made the Congress her instrument, undermining its role as a national institution and democratic bulwark. She set up her own, often incompetent satraps to lead the

states. Nothing has been allowed to grow strong enough to threaten her. "India is India, India is India", was the slogan of the 1970s, the synthesis of herself and country, symbolizing her coronation and her belief that she embodies the people's will. Her popularity has always been her ultimate comfort. To millions, as she says, she is known as "Mother".

Mrs Gandhi presides over an awesome experiment in mass democracy in a land of 720,000,000, seven-tenths of whom are illiterate. She is shrewd in a way her father was not, with an acute sense of *Realpolitik*. She has never had any illusions about the venality of many politicians, or of the nature of Indian politics. Caste, for example, is an ineradicable part of society's fibre, a force for order and stability in spite of its rivalries and injustices, and is therefore part of the currency of politics, supplying ready-made interest groups. Inevitably, grand western and Nehruvian notions of democracy are digested by Indian massiveness and tradition.

### Last week she was shaken by a fat film star

Mrs Gandhi is not only experienced but has the rare attribute of being an all-India figure. Her supporters say her mastery has created stability and national focus in a country where there are regional, communal and caste strains. It has not been torn in the manner of other developing countries, remains enviably free, and its soldiers cast no shadows.

Out of Mrs Gandhi's fears and political machete-work has evolved a monolith with the emphasis on the power of her personality. It is she who holds together the eponymous Indira Congress, who has to spearhead every exhausting election campaign, each a test of her charisma and stamina.

This is how it was in last week's elections in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where she and her party were shatteringly defeated. In Andhra Pradesh, she matched her charisma against that of a fat film star who had played Hindu gods so often that many half believed he had become one - and she lost.

If, indeed, the family business is to be inherited, the legacy must be fragile. Personality cannot be handed down and the office is not, by itself, power. Even the magic of a ruling family, which counts for much, can wither.

In India power must be vigorously asserted. Rajiv Gandhi does not possess his mother's political flair and jungle instinct. If he should be invested with the staff of leadership? If his grasp on the reins should fail, India could pay a price in turmoil for Mrs Gandhi's keystone system and her erosion of the institutional framework.

It would be wrong to be apocalyptic about this, for India is an ancient, resilient, unrevolutionary bulk with a strong self-steering component. Regional troubles, for example, tend to be compartmentalized and not infectious. Nevertheless, the preeminence of the leader's personality over the system carries risks, and in this respect India has been weakened.

Mrs Gandhi's suspicious nature, (she once told her aunt, the distinguished Ambassador Mrs Pandit, once the High Commissioner in London, that she didn't



India's ruling dynasty: (top row, left to right) Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs Vijaya Pandit, (second row) Sanjay Gandhi, Maneka, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia, (bottom) Indira Gandhi

trust her) and pursuit of unchallengeable power have led to distortions and excesses. Her Emergency of 1975-77, a mistake and a failure, was an act of political survival; and the rise of Sanjay-ar-chamberlain and fixer revealed a flaw in her style of management. Her lack of trust in others led her to rely only on those of her blood, however unfitted for power.

Sanjay was politically crude, contemptuous of political norms, but with an instinct for power and the jugular. His youth, energy and access to the core of power and patronage excited his Praetorian guard and assorted opportunists. Two and a half years after his death in a plane crash, his ruthlessness all but forgotten, he has been posthumously ennobled, hailed as "son of India", his image employed as a totem, his slogans shouted and never acted upon.

Rajiv left his Indian Airlines cockpit to take Sanjay's place, introduced as an unwilling conscript but seeing his duty, as he put it, "to help Mum". He is a modest man who used to introduce himself to

passengers as Commander Rajiv, not Gandhi, and people wondered how such a nice fellow would endure a trade whose seaminess he despised.

He formed his own cadre of earnest men to help him, some of them old school chums. He won his brother's parliamentary seat.

Arrethi, and studied power management at his mother's side. He and Sonia, the favourite daughter-in-law, their son Rahul and daughter Priyanka, live in the prime ministerial compound at No 1 Safdarjang Road, one of Delhi's broad avenues.

Like his mother, Rajiv gives morning *darshan*, a traditional form

of audience, in which ordinary people present petitions and grievances. Access to those in authority is important, one of the things that make India work.

Maneka, who also lived at No 1, had no love for Rajiv, thinking him politically weak, and watched his cautious advance with dismay. Death had robbed her of a husband and the limelight, and she felt cheated. The relationship with her mother-in-law grew bitter, and tension in the house burst at last when she left in a blaze of publicity she stage-managed herself. She took her infant son, Varun, on whom Mrs Gandhi dotes. He now visits his grandmother on Sundays.

Maneka, who is 26, is still a political oddity, touring the country, attacking the Congress and repeating her husband's slogans. She could become a focus for political malcontents and opportunists and perhaps become a threat to her brother-in-law. But she possesses little of political value other than the name she acquired through marriage, a fingernail grip on the ruling family.

The row between the two Mrs Gandhis has started a sordid little war conducted by diatribes among their supporters. Lurid pamphlets are going the rounds, and much of the scurrility is directed at Maneka's ambitious mother, Mrs. Anand. Maneka cannot be attacked with full force: she is, after all, a member of the family, and so is her son.

Indira Gandhi recently stopped publication of a book called *Son of India*, a tribute to Sanjay, because it contained a vituperative attack on Maneka and her mother written by an old friend of the Nehru family. This was unseemly in such a book - but the attack was published anyway in the *National Herald*, the paper Nehru founded.

By now Mrs Gandhi has grown used to the often foolish actions of those who try to please her. There is around her a treacherous sycophancy, her arrivals and departures celebrated by obsequious *chamchas*, shoelickers, who, as more than one of her chief ministers has said, "owe everything to God and Mrs Gandhi".

Loyalty is paramount. Mrs Gandhi has talked often of India's reserves of brainpower and talent of all kinds, but her reign has been marked by her employment of many mediocre men, for whose mediocrity she herself has contempt. Afraid to allow capable men to grow, and perhaps threaten her, she has given the preference to third-rate, but loyal men. Such people have been imposed on state governments and have been notable for their inefficiency, incompetence and corruption. Mrs Gandhi's servitude to her people: And the people are becoming increasingly resentful as the southern elections showed.

### She has a rich guru her enemies call Rasputin

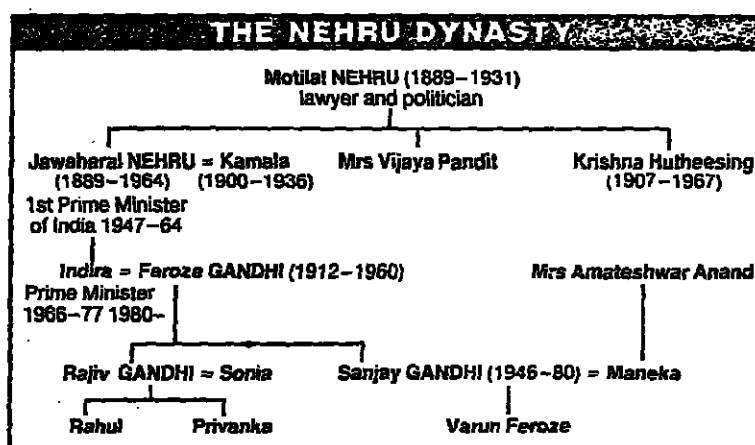
Mrs Gandhi remains as tigerish as ever, rounding on those who criticize her family, her cubs, seeing attacks on her appointees as personal. The old sensitivity remains.

She works with a small, discreet staff. What sort of influence does her circle have on only be a matter of speculation. No one really knows, for example, the role of the rich Yoga teacher, guru, arms maker and plane owner Swami Brahmachari, a striking, bearded figure in white masha, carrying a white handbag who has been close to the family for years and is known to the Prime Minister's enemies as Rasputin.

Mrs Gandhi shares her father's pride in the Nehru family's place in history, as natural rulers. But she never had her father's dreams, has never been a reformer. Perhaps her survivor's instinct has told her of the dangers of trying to change things too quickly in this extraordinary land. Perhaps she feels tenure is enough.

The trademark blaze of white in her hair grows larger, and perhaps Mrs Gandhi grows more reflective for since Sanjay's death she has been more frequently to temples. But her energy and indefatigability are undiminished. Elections, especially put the glint of battle into her eye. A such times, not only her party, but also her family and her name are on trial and have to be fought for. And Indira Gandhi is nothing if not a fighter.

Trevor Fishlock



### Court of Appeal

### Law Report January 10, 1983

### Court of Appeal

## Time bar excluded by agreement

*D/S A/S Idaho v Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co Ltd*  
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Kerr and Sir Sebag Shaw

[Judgment delivered December 14] Where an inter-club agreement and the Hague Rules were incorporated into a time charterparty, a settlement of claims between owners and charterers pursuant to the inter-club agreement was not subject to the time-bar provision in article 3(6) of the Hague Rules.

The Court of Appeal so stated in allowing an appeal by charterers, *D/S A/S Idaho*, from the decision of Mr Justice Robert Goff on a case filed by an arbitrator relating to a claim by the charterers against shipowners, the Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co Ltd.

Mr Anthony Hallett, QC, and Mr Ian Milligan for the charterers; Mr Stewart Boyd, QC, and Mr Victor Lyon for the owners.

LORD JUSTICE KERR said that the appeal was a test case to determine an important issue which might arise whenever the Inter-Club New York Produce Exchange Agreement was incorporated into a time charterparty. The issue was whether the settlement of cargo claims between owners and charterers pursuant to the inter-club agreement was subject to the time-bar in article 3(6) of the Hague Rules.

The judge had held that it was and that the charterers' claim was time-barred because they had instituted the arbitration claiming settlement under the agreement after the expiry of one year from the discharge of the goods. Was that decision correct or not?

York Produce Exchange Agreement. The charterers in their points of claim had alleged, *inter alia*, that between April and July 1977 during the performance of the charterparty the cargo was lost, damaged, short delivered and/or overlanded as a result of the acts, neglect, or default of the owners and that the charterers had properly settled or compromised the claims and had incurred expenses as a result.

In the arbitration the charterers claimed from the owners either 100% of the cargo or 50% of those expenses under the inter-club agreement. However, since the arbitration was only instituted in February 1978, the cargo was not shown to have been discharged during June 1975; the charterers also claimed a declaration that their claim was not time-barred by article 3(6) of the Hague Rules which stipulated that "in any event the carrier and the ship shall be discharged from all liability in respect of loss or damage unless suit is brought within one year of the date when the goods should have been delivered".

As was well known, the Hague Rules emerged in an international convention which embodied a compromise between the desire for freedom to contract out of responsibility for cargo and the desire of cargo owners to subject the carriers to maximum responsibility for cargo.

In relation to claims under the bill of lading issued under the charter, which did not incorporate the inter-club agreement, all cargo claims had to be dealt with by reference to the responsibilities and defenses laid down in the Hague Rules.

However, when the Hague Rules were incorporated into the charter, the inter-club agreement also had the effect of cutting across those responsibilities and defenses by a rough and ready apportionment of financial liability as between the owners and charterers.

apportionment of liability for cargo claims arising under the New York Produce Exchange charter.

Three matters emerged from the material provisions of the inter-club agreement. First, the cargo claims referred to were claims by third parties, that is, the bill of lading holders, and the opening words of clause 55 "cargo claims..." also referred exclusively to such claims and not to claims between the owners and the charterers *inter se*. Thus clause 55 did not apply to direct claims by the charterers against the shipowners when the charterers were the owners of the cargo and the bills of lading were merely receipts.

Second, the cargo claims referred to in the agreement might have been put forward by the bill of lading holders either against the shipowners or against the charterers and the inter-club agreement then provided the basis for a mechanical apportionment of financial liability.

Third, it was a condition precedent to settlement under the agreement that the owners or charterers should have "properly settled or compromised" the claims of the bill of lading holders. Those claims would fall to be dealt with under the Hague Rules incorporated into the bills of lading. It was only if the inter-club agreement was complied with that the inter-club agreement fell to be applied.

If one asked oneself "what connexion could the parties have intended between a settlement under the inter-club agreement and the application of the Hague Rules in relation to such settlement?" The answer must be "none".

The scheme of the inter-club agreement lay in the opposite direction. It cut across any allocation of functions and responsibilities based on the Hague Rules. Indeed, the avoidance of such allocation was the very objective of the inter-club agreement.

In that connexion it was common ground that clause 55 must itself prevail notwithstanding article 3(6) of the Hague Rules which invalidated any agreement which relieved the carrier to any extent, "from liability for loss or damage, or in

connexion with the goods."

The inter-club agreement clearly had that effect, since it might relieve either of the parties from liability, in whole or in part, under the charterparty and/or the Hague Rules.

Could it then have been the intention of the parties that the time-bar in article 3(6) should nevertheless survive and apply to a settlement pursuant to clause 55 when it happened that the claims by the bill of lading holders had been made against the charterers, and when it was the charterers who agreed settlement under the inter-club agreement?

In his Lordship's view the answer was again clearly "no". Article 3(6) was formulated in order to give certain associations a carriage by sea when the standard of their obligations in relation to cargo was that which was prescribed by the Hague Rules as a whole.

The inter-club agreement, on the other hand, provided a mechanical apportionment of financial liability which was wholly independent of those standards of obligation. The agreed apportionment had nothing to do with the Hague Rules and was in fact designed to overcome the difficulties which would result from their application.

The condition precedent for the application of that agreement was that the bill of lading holders' claim "shall have been properly settled or compromised". It contained no reference whatever to the "delivery of the goods or the date when the goods should have been delivered", which was the *terminus a quo* for the bringing of suit under article 3(6).

One had only to read article 3(6) as a whole, let alone to read the Hague Rules as a whole, to see that the scheme of neither of them fitted into the inter-club agreement in any way.

*Cairns v MacDiarmid (Inspector of Taxes)*  
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Kerr, and Sir Sebag Shaw

[Judgment delivered December 17] A tax avoidance scheme designed by a tax consultant called the "non-deposit scheme" did not achieve its object of avoiding income tax because the relevant payments were not "annual interest" under section 75(1) of the Finance Act 1972 and the payments made by the taxpayer were so artificial and so devoid of any purpose other than a fiscal purpose as to disqualify them from consideration in the context of taxation.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments dismissed an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr William Stephen Cairns, from the judgment of Mr Justice Nourse on December 16, 1981 (*The Times*, December 21, 1981) who dismissed the taxpayer's appeal from a determination of the special commissioners refusing his claim for tax relief in respect of a payment of £5,000 alleged to be annual interest.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused. Section 75(1) of the Finance Act 1972 provides: "Where a person pays in any year of assessment - (a) annual interest chargeable to tax under Case III of Schedule D... and makes a claim to relief... the amount of interest shall be deducted from or set off against his income for that year of assessment..."

Mr Anthony Sumption and Mr Richard Sowler for the taxpayer; Mr D. C. Potter, QC and Mr Peter Goldsmith for the Crown.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the appeal concerned a tax avoidance scheme which was widely used in 1974. It was in the nature of a test case but received its genesis in the Finance Act 1976.

tax and no doubt it was a matter of professional pride to both that it should be.

Section 75(1)(a) of the Finance Act 1972 seemed to provide a possible solution not only to Mr Cairns's problem, but also to that of various clients of Mr Tucker.

Mr Tucker had devised a scheme, the "non-deposit scheme" or "one-year high income scheme". Ross Minister Acceptances Ltd would lend Mr Cairns £37,740 for two years at interest at 15.25 per cent payable annually in advance, that amounted to £5,000.55 per annum.

That was to be a genuine loan but Mr Cairns did not need that sum. A company called Boreton Ltd was prepared to enter into a tripartite agreement with Mr Cairns and Ross Minister whereby, for an appropriate consideration it would assume all the rights and liabilities of Mr Cairns vis-à-vis Ross Minister.

Mr Cairns decided to avail himself of the scheme. On March 1, 1974 he executed a loan agreement with Ross Minister, received Ross Minister's cheque for £37,740 and gave his own cheque to Ross Minister for £5,000.

That left him with £32,740. On March 5, 1974 he paid £32,740 to Boreton under the tripartite novation agreement and was relieved of any further liability to Ross Minister to be treated by Mr Cairns as annual interest for the purposes of section 75(1)(a) of the Finance Act 1972.

The judge had held that the payment was not interest but a payment in discharge of a purely artificial liability which was created in order to achieve a tax advantage. *A fortiori* it was not annual interest.

The court had had the great advantage of the new procedure under which, in appropriate cases, it was furnished in advance with skeleton arguments for both parties. The hearing could start with the court fully apprised of the background and the parameters of the dispute.

Time spent in court was a major factor in the cost of litigation. The hearing had been estimated to last about two days, but in fact lasted less than a day.

The merit of the change in procedure was that, taking into account the pre-reading, the oral argument, subsequent discussion between members of the court and preparation of judgment, at least two days were devoted to the appeal, but that part of that period which was spent out of court was without expense to the parties.

The appeal could be disposed of on either of two alternative bases: that the payment was not annual interest, but short interest; and that although the loan to Mr Cairns, the novation and the payments by Mr Cairns were not sham transactions, viewed as a whole in context they had a character so artificial and so devoid of any purpose, other than a fiscal purpose, as to disqualify them from consideration in the context of taxation.

The difference between what was annual and what was short interest depended upon the intention of the parties. On the facts found by the commissioners, the loan to Mr Cairns was never intended to last for more than a few days, albeit he was entitled to postpone payment for two years. In fact, as was always intended, his liability was discharged within the week, not by repayment, but by novation.

It did not even have the reality of *Ramsay's* case in that Mr Cairns neither paid a fee nor incurred any expenses. At the end of a series of connected and intended transactions, his financial position was precisely what it was at the beginning.

The payment of £5,000 was no interest or annual interest within the meaning of Section 75 of the 1972 Act.

LORD JUSTICE KERR, agreeing, said that the decision of the House of Lords in *Ramsay's* case made the appeal hopeless. But would have failed in the absence of that decision.

Even if the delivery of the cheque for £5,000 by Mr Cairns in exchange for Ross Minister's cheque for £37,740 constituted a payment in the circumstances for the purposes of section 75(1)(a) of the 1972 Act it was clearly not a payment of "annual interest". There was never any intention that the cheque for £5,000 should in fact represent interest, or that it was properly described as "annual".

His Lordship also agreed with the judge that it was not a payment of interest at all but merely a payment made in discharge of a purely artificial liability which was created in order to obtain a tax advantage.

Sir Sebag Shaw agreed. Solicitors: Mr Ian Jefferson, Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

### Legal aid appeals

*Mawdsley v Mawdsley*  
Sir John Arnold, President of the Family Division, on granting a husband leave to appeal out of time against a maintenance order made in favour of his wife by Chancery justices said on December 14 that solicitors should be aware that where a party had been legally aided before the justices solicitors could lodge a notice of appeal immediately without requiring a further legal aid certificate.









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## LADY OF THE ISLES

There is nothing like seeing for oneself. Mrs Thatcher's surprise arrival in the Falklands may provoke all kinds of over-reaction but, at the heart of it, lies the fact that she will now be infinitely better equipped to assess future possibilities for the islands and their inhabitants than she would have been simply on the basis of official briefings. Apart from anything else it can no longer be said that she and the Argentine leadership share a mutual, if contradictory, myth about the islands which might deprive them both of rational decision-making.

Port Stanley, Tumbledown, Darwin, the modest island economy, the hopes and fears of a small agrarian community of "our people" - all this - including the Argentine mine fields and the manifest and unforgivable evidence of the invader's vandalism, are no longer myths. They are no longer mirages for Mrs Thatcher now. They are hard reality; and in a concrete sense will quite rightly be moulded into the Prime Minister's quartz-like determination to dislodge the world of any notion that just because Argentina goes on asserting its claim to sovereignty indefinitely, it will somehow be granted. Quite clearly, as long as Mrs Thatcher is Prime Minister, it will not.

When Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, visited London last month, he was severely rebuked by Mrs Thatcher for suggesting that Britain would soon have to resume negotiations about the issue of sovereignty with Argentina. Any simple study of the recent past - as the Franks Report will probably also show next week - makes it clear that though there may be no hope of achieving some stable modus vivendi with Argentina if the Falklands sovereignty remains non-negotiable, there is actually no better hope of achieving greater stability even if the

subject were to become negotiable. It was precisely because of that middle in the past that the Argentines felt emboldened to invade a territory that the British were signalling they no longer wished to be responsible for.

The blandness of Mr Shultz's diplomatic approach may find this hard to comprehend. He is particularly in search of a South Atlantic strategic grouping which, behind the main theme, has the small percussion element of an American desire to get a settlement over the Falklands. With Argentina in its past, present and likely future state of endemic crisis, it would be anyway more prudent to select Brazil, Chile and possibly even Uruguay as the basic building blocks of such a strategic grouping. There is something sadly rotten in that state of Argentina which makes it all the more unrealistic to talk about sovereignty negotiations with her as though a mere concession of that kind to her hectoring and bullying over the Falklands could also miraculously cure the wild distempers which rage unchecked within.

The myth of their Malvinas is neither the cause of the Argentine crisis, nor would it be the cure. And the identity of the hostile stranger, so necessary for this collective condition, would revert merely from Britain to Chile or perhaps even Brazil as so often hitherto in Argentina's paranoid past.

However, there is more at stake in the South Atlantic than the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. Britain's dependencies are scattered more widely towards Antarctica and form a crucial element in the composition of that region, whose Treaty is to be renewed in six years time. That will be a matter of careful diplomacy in which the Argentine position would be at a considerable disadvantage unless Buenos Aires shows itself capable of conducting business on a less bellicose basis. Given

an absence of bellicosity there is obviously much of mutual advantage that can be arranged.

In the meantime Mrs Thatcher will find that "pressing the flesh" among the Falklanders who quite rightly regard her as their saviour will be no substitute for practical economic measures to equip the islands for a future more in keeping with the plans laid out by Lord Shackleton in his Report. It would offend all accepted theories of prudent development economics to saturate a small archipelago with a scattered population with sudden munificence; and that should not be done. The case for a huge new airport is not proven; nor is it yet so certain that gradual civil air links will not be feasible with some of Argentina's neighbours, handled discreetly.

The application of careful economic stimuli, as defined by Lord Shackleton, should halt the rundown which has hitherto eroded the islanders' self-confidence, of course, must arise from the clearest possible commitment from Britain that they will not be let down again just because it is awkward to keep them going. But it will not be allayed simply by the spectacle of a satisfactory military effort if the economic back-up for the islanders makes no progress. The fact that the preservation of a British Falklands may be a considerable inconvenience is not an argument against its preservation.

When the Falklands bush telegraph broadcast the news that "The Prime Minister is here" there was only one Prime Minister it could be. That is the meaning of Mrs Thatcher to the Falklanders: that is the measure of the commitment she had made to them; that is the measure of the responsibility which she, of all her Ministers, would be keen to live up to. She too has become a Falklander now.

## SLOW ROAD OUT OF LEBANON

There was talk yesterday in Jerusalem of a possible "breakthrough" in the negotiations between Israel, Lebanon and the United States which resume today in the Lebanese town of Khalde. Any celebration would be premature, however. Even if it materialises, this breakthrough would be no more than agreement on an agenda. Seven months after the Israeli invasion, four months after the Palestinian fighters left Beirut, three and a half months after the inauguration of President Amin Gemayel, Lebanon remains an occupied country, with little prospect of early release.

Khalde itself, on the southern outskirts of Beirut, is still under Israeli occupation. So are the mountains of the Chouf which overlook it, and there the Israeli occupation has brought bloodshed to an area of Lebanon which, in the previous seven years of civil war, had largely escaped it. In the war of 1975 the Christians of the Chouf did not contest the local ascendancy of the Druze leader Kamal Jumblatt, and in return went untroubled by his partisans. Things have been different since the arrival of the Israelis and, in their wake, the Phalangist Christian militia. The Druze were realistic enough not to resist the Israeli blitzkrieg, but they have bitterly resisted the Lebanese interloper.

A seemingly parallel situation prevails in the north, under Syrian occupation. There the city of Tripoli has been racked for seven weeks by fighting between the Alawite immigrant minority

(co-religionists of Syria's President Hafez al-Assad) and the Sunni majority. The parallel is not complete, however. In the Chouf Israel's presence has exacerbated native Lebanese tensions; whereas, Tripoli is largely the victim of extraneous conflicts for which it has the misfortune to provide a convenient arena (the whole tragic story of Lebanon in microcosm).

Tripoli is caught-up in two separate quarrels concerning President Assad's regime. One is the battle with the Sunni majority in Syria, led by the Muslim Brotherhood. The other opposes Mr Assad to Mr Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The latter, never a docile protégé, has now shaken decisively free of Syrian protection and thrown in his lot with Mr Assad's Arab enemies - King Hussein of Jordan and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who favours working with the Americans to achieve an Arab-Israeli settlement. Thus Mr Arafat's Fatah organization is to be found fighting on the Sunni side in Tripoli, while Palestinian factions loyal to Syria are lined up with the Alawites.

Thus Tripoli at least could be at peace if only the non-Lebanese forces - Syrian and Palestinian - were withdrawn from it. Both have indicated their willingness to withdraw if requested to do so by the Lebanese government, but with one crucial condition: the Israelis must leave Lebanon first. The Israelis for their part are most unlikely to agree to this. Their view is that

the Palestinians should leave first, and then themselves and the Syrians by simultaneous stages, agreed in advance. It seems to be generally assumed that a compromise on timing can be worked out, once the principle of withdrawal is agreed between the Israeli and Lebanese governments. Hence the priority given to the negotiations now migrating between Khalde and Kiryat Shmona.

But here too Lebanon is in something of a cleft stick. As the price of withdrawal Israel wants to establish normal peaceful relations with Lebanon in such areas as tourism and commerce. Moreover it wants to ensure its own security by maintaining Israeli military observation posts in Lebanese territory, and a special security zone in the south to be policed by its own protégé, Major Saad Haddad. These demands are difficult for Lebanon to accept, if only because they would jeopardise her relations with the rest of the Arab world and provide Syria with an ideal pretext to drag her feet - as Mr Shafiq Wazzan, the Lebanese prime minister, was no doubt warned when he visited Damascus on Saturday.

Israel has many times proclaimed her anxiety to restore effective Lebanese sovereignty. She now has the chance to do that by agreeing to withdraw quickly subject to simultaneous withdrawal by Syria and the P.L.O. and to entrust the policing of south Lebanon to a Lebanese government which can hardly be accused of showing tenderness to Palestinians, assisted at the outset by a multinational force.

## LOOKING FOR RECRUITS

Now that police authorities are at last showing more enthusiasm for black recruits, lack of motive in those communities is the main reason for the seriously small proportion of black men and women coming forward. The inhibition is due partly to distrust of the police derived from experience or hearsay, and partly to cultural antipathies of a more general sort. Neither will be easily or quickly dispelled.

Of those of Asian, African or West Indian descent who do apply, or would like to apply, to join the police many do not meet the educational standards that are set. Some do not meet those standards because they have not done themselves justice at school; they are capable of the necessary achievement and in other ways would make suitable recruits. It is most desirable that the opportunity of police training should not be denied them.

Official advice was issued last year for identifying those potential recruits and offering extra training and education to bring them up to the required stan-

dards. Some police authorities are already trying that. The Metropolitan Police have introduced special training for "near misses" in the entry test so that they may later pass. The scheme has not so far been a success, partly because no funds were available for grants or expenses. Derbyshire is trying a different tack. The police authority there is waiving formal qualifications for entry to the police cadet force, and selecting with an eye to other qualities and a freedom to include a generous proportion of blacks. All will be required to reach the educational and other standards before being accepted later as recruits to the police force proper.

Three considerations govern an initiative of that kind. The first is the need for more black policemen, to make forces more representative of the communities in which they keep the peace, and to reduce the suspicions and sense of grievance which ethnic minorities tend to have towards the police. The second is the avoidance of any lowering of

standards of recruitment in the attempt to bring about a better balance that would risk general damage to the efficiency of the police and invite the public labelling of black officers as inferior policemen. The third is the danger implicit in any overt discrimination in favour of blacks of provoking resentment among whites who see individuals or collectively that they are being discriminated against. If that catches on the last state is worse than the first.

The scale and shape of the Derbyshire scheme ought to save it from that sort of resentment except at the worst extremes of racial prejudice. Racial quotas adopted as a matter of policy for the purpose of minority advancement are understandably suspect. But that is not the object of the Derbyshire cadet scheme. Its object is to improve the force's chances of getting the sort of manpower it needs to make an efficient job of its policing responsibilities. The scheme fits that purpose. It deserves every success.

## Use of animals in the laboratory

From Professor R. Y. Calne, FRS

The public is remarkably ambivalent towards the treatment of animals. Most of us love animals but eat meat, wear leather and are happy to benefit from medical advances. Human lives are lost attempting to save animals in peril, yet the RSPCA sanctions the death of 200,000 unwanted and abandoned pets each year - more than ten times the number used in all United Kingdom laboratories.

There appears to be little concern when idealistic criminals claiming to represent the Animal Liberation Front, break in and steal in an attempt to prevent research as happened recently in this university (report, January 5). Are these men and women sufficiently idealistic to eschew when they are ill treatment with antibiotics, to withhold insulin from their children should they become diabetic, to refuse open heart surgery to infants born with congenital heart disease or deny a life-saving kidney graft to a youngster suffering from kidney failure?

Let there be no misunderstanding, the eradication of smallpox, the control of poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tuberculosis, the ability to cure most dangerous common infections, the successful repair of many heart defects, and the rehabilitation of thousands of patients suffering from kidney disease are possible solely because of experiments on animals.

Diabetes is treatable because insulin was discovered by Banting and Best in surgical experiments on dogs. The dog was also used to develop heart and transplantation surgery. If further medical advances are to be made, and there are many diseases that still cause suffering and death in the young, then the public must accept animal experimentation.

Progress in medicine is not desired - an unlikely supposition in a civilized society - then suppression of animal experiments should be brought about by democratic processes of Parliament, not criminal acts.

Yours faithfully,  
R. Y. CALNE  
University of Cambridge Clinical School,  
Department of Surgery,  
Addenbrooke's Hospital,  
Hills Road,  
Cambridge,  
January 6.

## Control of foxes

From the Chairman of the Masters of Foxhounds Association

Sir, May I refer to the article on hunting by Richard North in your paper on January 4? As it is headed "in pursuit of the facts" it is important to get the facts that it is necessary to cull foxes correct. The reason that the fox population remains more or less constant, with local fluctuations, is that their numbers are controlled by man in his various capacities. Recognised foxhunts are expected by their farmers and landowners to be efficient in the control of the number of foxes each season.

Most of these hunts attain this objective and the foxes are not in the main then subjected to the alternative methods of control which, as Mr North indicates, involve more suffering and which incidentally occur in regions where hunting is impossible. Foxes do not perish in large numbers from natural causes, as is implied, and indeed often survive to a ripe age. Hunting does not seek to exterminate, or indeed decimate, the local foxes but to control them and disperse them to the broad satisfaction of rural communities.

There are many other good reasons for hunting to continue, not least that the great majority of farmers and landowners welcome it, contrary to what the article suggests. The suggestion that foxes and other hunting quarry very seldom need culling is not true, nor would it be good for the species; without hunting there would be many less foxes, deer or hares permitted to be left unmolested in their breeding seasons.

Yours faithfully,  
R. E. WALLACE  
(Chairman, Masters of Foxhounds Association),  
Parsons Cottage,  
Bagendon,  
Gloucester,  
January 7.

## A bar to comparison

From Dr Malcolm Weller

Sir, The inflation rate of Cadbury's chocolate bars does not compare so "outstandingly well with postage inflation" between 1914 and the present as asserted by Mr Dominic Cadbury (January 4) when one considers that diverse hydrogenated fats are now used as substitutes for the traditional, and more expensive, cocoa butter. It is arguable that the stuff is not chocolate at all.

Yours faithfully,  
MALCOLM WELLER,  
30 Arkwright Road,  
Hampstead, NW3,  
January 4.

## Politic significance?

From Mr Alan Shelley

Sir, Yesterday evening I saw a nondescript saloon car of indeterminate colour in the Beaconsfield area. The registration plate letters were "SDP" followed, after the number, by the suffix "V".

No answer was apparent. The car in question was a left-hand drive model. Is this significant?

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN SHELLEY,  
White Cottage,  
Beaconsfield Road,  
Farnham Common,  
Buckinghamshire.

## Lesson of employment comparison

From Sir Richard O'Brien

Sir, The letter from Professor Clunies-Ross (January 4) on ways to reduce unemployment points in the right direction. He draws attention to the relative success achieved by certain other countries in keeping unemployment below 3 per cent and in controlling inflation.

These countries - Austria, Norway and Sweden - have in common "institutions that allow wages to be determined by a set of social decisions rather than by restrictions on society's output". He might have broadened the group to include other countries which have been successful economically, e.g. West Germany and Japan, and which have also consciously developed ways of achieving cooperation and understanding on national economic objectives between Government, unions and employers.

We, too, made efforts during the 1960s and 1970s to set up institutions and consultations which would promote such cooperation and understanding. It is now too often forgotten that during this time we began to arrest Britain's far-from-inevitable economic decline. This is a lesson comparing UK and EEC, reveals what happened to productivity.

	1955-64	1964-69	1969-73
UK (excluding Northern Ireland)	2.19	3.15	3.40
EEC (excluding Luxembourg)	4.57	4.81	5.94

Source: Policy Studies Journal, January, 1983, quoting National Institute Economic Studies, August, 1981.

At the same time the stage was being set for a growth in exports. For those of us who were involved in negotiations with Government in the early 1970s, this period seems in retrospect to be a tragedy of lost opportunities. Our failure to create a new basis of relationships between Government, employers and unions prevented us from absorbing the impact of the oil price increases as well as other countries.

## Nuclear debate

From Professor James O'Connell

Sir, The argument has continually been introduced - and again by Professor Pick (January 3) - that nuclear weapons have been a factor in keeping the peace in Europe for the last thirty years. It seems worthwhile to look at this argument in perspective.

To begin with, it seems reasonable to allow that such weapons, with their destructive power, may have contributed to restraining the countries of the two great alliances in Europe from attacking one another. It takes greater provocation to go to war in the face of utterly destructive retaliation. Yet it is also the case that countries such as Britain and Germany, which a generation ago tried to devastate one another, have not only managed to avoid sources of conflict but have found good reasons for all sorts of co-operation.

Peace was consolidated as countries discovered that their interests converged. A perceived external military threat may have helped in forming the Western military alliance. But those historical factors that went into the making of the Common Market (as those that went into the unification of Germany in the nineteenth century) have been the more pervasive than military considerations.

In other words, if nuclear weapons have been a factor in keeping the peace, it is also the case that many other, and in Western Europe at least, more powerful factors have been at work.

It is, furthermore, in many respects misleading to refer to the present period as a period of peace only. It is as well a period of genuine and preparation for war. Technology has dispensed with popular mobilisation for war, but it leaves war a possible 15 minutes away at any time. Under circumstances of permanent armed mobilisation and possibly imminent war countries live in relentless insecurity.

For such reasons, before we attribute an excessive role to nuclear weapons in keeping the peace, we must ponder the dangers that they involve. In this context I am not arguing that the United States and the Soviet Union should, or could, be prevailed on in the near future to discard all their nuclear weapons. They should, however, be more sensitive than either has been to the

The waste of resources involved in high unemployment, let alone the moral questions involved, demands that we consider afresh how to run the economy at a higher level of activity and thus begin the long, hard task of reducing unemployment.

It will not be possible to control inflation, increase profits and investment and promote employment without a policy for wages and salaries. This involves discussions and trade-offs between the social partners. It does not imply that everything should be settled at the centre. A national economic understanding could and should provide a framework within which management and shop stewards make their own decisions.

In these ways Britain could do as well as other, more successful, economies.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD O'BRIEN,  
24 Argyle Road, W8,  
January 7.

From Mrs J. Spencer-Knott

Sir, In his assessment, Professor Clunies-Ross (January 4) does less than justice to this country in ignoring the fundamental problems posed by population density. Figures for Sweden are, population density 18 per sq. km; Norway, 13; and Austria, 89; whereas the relevant figures respectively for the UK and for England and Wales are 228 and 326.

Bearing in mind limitations imposed by the Arctic/Alpine factors of the countries cited, they each have an overall population smaller than that of London, but individually they enjoy a much larger slice of the national cake, enriched by the wide variety of natural resources.

And is not Norway maintaining high employment by stockpiling goods which are too costly to find markets abroad?

Yours faithfully,  
TINA SPENCER-KNOTT,  
28 Ovington Square, SW3.

need for relative disarmament and to the dangers of proliferation.

The British case, however, is different from that of the superpowers. To judge British retention of nuclear weapons within an already over-armed alliance we surely need to reckon not only the military dangers of existing policies but also the cost of nuclear uncertainty on the psychology of our people, the constitutional erosion of rights as government has been driven to conceal public policy (Chevaline) and the inadequacy of civil defence, among other things, the diversion of money and skills from economic growth, and the growing bitterness of the politics of a divided nation.

Yours etc.,  
JAMES O'CONNELL,  
University of Bradford,  
Bradford,  
West Yorkshire,  
January 6.

From Mr Gordon Bromley

Sir, It is generally agreed that one of the chief barriers to all-round arms reduction is Russian fear of aggression by the Western Powers. Though unjustified today, such fear, in the light of history, is easily understandable. What can be done to dispel it?

One thing we can do is to demonstrate in every way possible - especially in broadcasts to Eastern block countries, but also here at home - that absolutely no one in the West wants an anti-Soviet war. The demonstrations here, news of which would trickle through to the Russians, should not be left to the CND since, unfortunately, that body has become confused with unilateralism, a policy that has the backing of only a small minority.

What is needed is a "Lasting Peace with Russia" campaign that could be supported with sincerity and enthusiasm by all political parties throughout the Western world.

Such a campaign, to which lunatics alone could be opposed, would not of course work miracles; but if it helped dispel only a little of the Russian fear would surely be worth the effort, especially at a time like this, when Mr Andropov appears to wish for a clearer understanding with the West.

Yours truly,  
GORDON BROMLEY,  
51 Wilford Way, NW11,  
January 5.

## M40 inquiry

From Lady Elton

Sir, The Department of Transport is clearly as insensitive as ever. When the M5 slashed an extravagant diagonal through the Gordano Valley and across the north Somerset levels within a few hundred yards of Clevedon Court no mention was made of a "low background drone" (report, December 15).

This must be a euphemism for incessant foreground roar, augmented by the squeal of lorry tyres on the wet carriageway and the flapping of the plastic sheets which protect road-borne cargoes of cakes and ale and consumer durables.

Serious scholarship is hardly possible in this library until nearly midnight, and the peace of the

steeply terraced gardens so movingly described by Thackeray in *Henry Esmond* is shattered by noise.

In the late sixties, during discussions with transport officials, we asked, on behalf of the National Trust, about tree-planting, only to be told, humorously no doubt, that we could spend the "compensation" on trees or diamond tiaras.

We planted 500 trees and the department planted some scrub, but not to much effect. Given the state of the diamond market the gratuitous suggestion of tiaras was frivolously bad advice and indicates some lack of foresight in the Department of Transport.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET ANN ELTON,  
Clevedon Court,  
Somerset.

## The Tory tradition

From Councillor Trevor Russell

Sir, Your excellent editorial "Tories thirty years on" (January 5) should really demolish the new Conservative right's always-dubious claim to somehow be the heirs to the 1952 Tory mantle.

To those of us who have drawn our Conservatism from "Rab" Butler, the suggestion has always seemed preposterous.

However, you could have gone further and pointed out that the Eden, Macmillan, Home and Heath administrations were equally dissimilar to Mrs Thatcher's in tone,

approach, philosophy and policies. In other words, the new Conservatism would be alien to every post-war Tory government.

It will be interesting to see how the historians of 2012 evaluate the present administration's domestic record, especially against its Tory predecessors' performance. One suspects the judgement will be harsh - and rightly so.

Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR RUSSELL,  
34 Colburn Way,  
Sutton,  
Surrey,  
January 5.

## Political design in/in university cuts

From Professor E. A. Barnard, FRS

Sir, Your columnist, Roger Scruton, writes (January 4), along with much else in the same vein. "A person who knows only engineering or microbiology finds himself hampered by his knowledge, which casts little light on his experience, and leads to no new communication with his fellow humans." C. P. Snow, thou shouldst be living at this hour!

Microbiology, for example, like any other study in depth of those living world, can certainly lead the inquirer to an appreciation of the intrinsic beauty, logic, hidden order, patterns of meaning and challenge of a pure intellect, no less so than the humanities which Dr Scruton champions. To write of knowledge "only" microbiology is, also, a significant semantic trap implying that knowledge of a science must cut out all other types of knowledge. The very "material" for thought and conversion of "saloon" which Dr Scruton urges us to seek by education is no less to be found in any of the natural sciences, no less in the Greek or mathematico-philosophical which he recommends.

By denigrating one large part of learning, the scientific, he sows the dissension in a camp which at this time needs to be united. All of us there need to defend those humanities values, in the widest sense, of education, against the current political attack on them which the article identifies. I believe correctly.

Our present Government is - in its eternal shame - leading the war in the western world in this attack. The punitive cutbacks inflicted on our universities were not dictated, and many other academics believe, by any real prospect of financial gain. In economic terms they were a loss. Britain more than it would gain as has been well illustrated by earlier correspondents in these columns. Even immediately, the Government, has allowed the total cost of maintenance of the student population to remain undiminished: the universities are being cut in numbers but the polytechnics have been permitted to increase their intakes correspondingly.

No, the Rhodes Boysans at Keith Josephs of this Government seem to wish to attack universities as such, and the culture they maintain regarding them as sheltered enclave which must be made to share in the general misery. The suspicion of higher education which Dr Scruton writes does exist in British political life today, and one probes one can hear it frank expressed there.

This political attitude leads to true philistinism, scornful of destructive of learning, ready to take away students who genuinely seek and to cut down a university system whose independence of thought, high standards of education, a nurturing of scholarship and a search were unsurpassed in the world. By the time the magnitude and character of the assault generally appreciated, it will have done major damage not only to national material well-being but also to the transmission of culture in its manifold aspects.

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC BARNARD,  
Imperial College of Science and Technology,  
Department of Biochemistry,  
South Kensington, SW7,  
January 5.

Telegram delays

From Sir Rudolf Peierls, FRS

Sir, When cost-cutting is combined with lack of imagination the result can be deplorable. After abolishing the domestic telegram service British Telecom are letting international service slip to point of complete uselessness.

A telegram addressed to me in Oxford was sent from the United States about noon (our time) December 31. It went to London not Oxford. The time of receipt not shown, but it was early on and to be postmarked at 15.30 that it reached me by mail on January 1, one day before the confirmed copy mailed from America.

Such a telegram addressed to me in Oxford was sent from the United States about noon (our time) December 31. It went to London not Oxford. The time of receipt not shown, but it was early on and to be postmarked at 15.30 that it reached me by mail on January 1, one day before the confirmed copy mailed from America.

This was not the first time foreign telegram has suffered; kind of delay. To a complaint on previous occasion I received a pe explanation that delivery by pe was used only when the address the message gave a phone number or "unless telegrams would be delivered in their purpose if delivered the same day". In my judgment? In that case the delay, in fact, cause considerable difficulty.

The letter also indicated a hand-delivery of telegrams we soon cease completely, but in nevertheless that customers continue to use the international telegraph service because, lacking in speed, it still had "style".

If this is the best service of which they are capable, British Telecom should refuse to accept fees for telegrams not including a "pl number, or warn senders about delays, to avoid being guilty of pretences.

Yours faithfully,  
RUDOLF PEIERLS,  
2b Northmoor Road,  
Oxford,  
January 6.

## Deus et machina

From Mr John Rabson

Sir, "Evangelicals split too" (report, January 3). Ecclesiastical Luddites?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN RABSON,  
Limes Farm House,  
Eyke,  
Suffolk,  
January 3.







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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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March 8 or 15 thought likely date for Budget

## Tax cut hopes dampened by slide in sterling

By Michael Prest

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### cord total tankers apped

By Barrie Clement

With a deep recession in trade and plunging scrap tanker owners are making rate attempts to save their from breakers' yards. Owners are converting vessels to novel uses. A record 25 million tons of scrap tankers were scrapped in 1982, a 10 per cent increase on 1981. A survey by the International Association of Shipbuilders (IASB) of 145 conversions representing ships of 10.16 million deadweight tons showed that between 1973 and 1982 some 42 combination tankers were converted to bulk carriers, while 29 oil tankers of 390 million deadweight tons came storage, production or oil ships. A further 12 were converted to carriers of livestock. Other tankers were rebuilt as oil and sludge carriers, tanker tugs and tug-boats, cement carriers and roll-on, roll-off vessels. Intertanko cites the example of a midship section of a very large carrier converted to drilling platform for Dome Petroleum's Ice Island in the Gulf Sea. In a discussion paper entitled 'Alternative Tanker Opportunities' published today, the association warns that conversion vessels to bulk cargo "only fits the problem from one bled shipping sector to another". It calls for greater genuity in the search for alternative uses. Last year 13 conversions were reported, including six involving tankers over 100,000 tons deadweight. Three of them came storage barges, two were converted to heavy-lift ships, and another became a drill production vessel. This was in sharp contrast to 1981, when emphasis was on conversion bulk and oil carriers.

### MF loan team leaves Riyadh

Riyadh (Reuters) - An International Monetary Fund delegation left Riyadh yesterday after talks with Saudi Arabian leaders on the possibility of a loan to help develop industries troubled by balance of payments deficits.

Monetary sources in Washington said the delegation was seeking a loan of between \$4,000m and \$5,000m. The delegation was led by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, and included Sir David Stockman, head of IMF's interim committee.

Another early Budget is likely this year, and March 8 or 15 are the most popular dates being suggested in Whitehall. But the continuing pressure on sterling, which could mean an acceleration in inflation and higher wage settlements in the second half of the year, is dampening already reduced hopes for significant tax cuts.

Forecasting by Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbrokers, suggest that the rate of retail price increases could fall to as low as 4 per cent during the first half of this year before averaging 6 per cent in the second half. It will then rise to an average 7.5 per cent next year.

Earnings are expected to grow by an average of 7.5 per cent this year and 7.8 per cent next year, rather less than the 12.8 per cent in 1981 and 9.1 per cent last year.

Unemployment, restrictions on public sector pay settlements, and a decline in inflationary expectations will hold pay increases in check, the stockbrokers say. But these and similar fore-

casts could easily be upset if sterling depreciates more quickly than anticipated. The Capel-Cure Myers figures are premised on the pound falling to 80 on the trade-weighted index by the end of this year and to 78 by the end of next year.

Last week, however, the pound slid from 84.3 to 82.5 and it was widely felt in the offshore exchange markets that the depreciation would not stop there. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, is therefore faced with uncomfortable decisions about interest rates immediately ahead of a Budget.

Even if the pound's decline is arrested - perhaps by further cuts in American and German interest rates - and the risk of tax cuts oversstimulating demand is lowered, the Government may still be deterred from tax cuts by the cost of financing unemployment and other benefits while the economy is depressed.

These extra costs could amount to £900m, and another £400m should be allowed for inflation. But if gross domestic



Sir Geoffrey: awkward decisions ahead.

product grows as anticipated by 1.5 per cent in the coming financial year, the Government should gain automatically enough additional revenue to cover the expenditure.

Those hoping for or arguing tax cuts therefore contend that the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement will not suffer. Against a probable result in the present financial year of £7,500m, the Government

could allow the PSBR to rise to £8,500 in 1983-4. At that level it would still be only 2.9 per cent of gross domestic product.

A PSBR of this size allows for tax cuts of 2 pence in the pound. The Institute of Directors will ask Sir Geoffrey on Thursday to lower tax thresholds. But the Treasury is believed to be resisting strongly various kinds of export incentives to leading British companies.

If that is the official mood, a generous Budget is felt to be unlikely.

### Wine traders seek sherry tax cut

The Wine and Spirit Association is to lobby the Chancellor for lower taxation on fortified wines such as sherry, vermouth and port because of falling sales, described as "persistent and serious".

The latest figures for the UK wine market for October show that volume sales of medium wines (those such as sherry and vermouths,

## Stores have record Christmas but worry about the Budget

By Jonathan Clare

Christmas 1982 was a record for retailers, at least in terms of inflated cash passing through the tills.

Retail analysts have been busy upping their forecasts for the stores sector this year, but they are still not wholly bullish.

A year ago, retailers went into the January sales oversstocked. This year they sold most of their stock before the sales started and they will begin the new financial year, which usually starts in February, with a lot of cash which will be reflected in year-end balance sheets.

The big beneficiaries have been the electrical retailers where the lifting of hire purchase restrictions glided the

Christmas lily. The picture was also brightened by the much better weather.

The worries for the sector are that the Chancellor will help industry rather than consumers in the Budget so as not to encourage imports. On the other hand, industry has no votes and the likelihood of a general election could change his mind.

Further, pressure on the pound this year could force interest rates up again. Although there are now signs that people are borrowing to buy, higher interest rates would certainly reverse that trend.

Stores which benefited from

Christmas include Harris Queensway and MFI (they have big January sales) and British Home Stores. Boots, with sales up by only 10 per cent, has done worse than most.

Most analysts are looking for nil inflation on retail prices which means the stores need better volume sales to cover cost increases of about four per cent, even after cutting their staff.

The government-controlled Development Bank of Singapore and the Overseas Union Bank are raising their prime rates to 9.25 from 9 per cent today. Both banks are also increasing deposit rates.

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Taiwan has announced tougher penalties for trade mark infringements in what it claims is a demonstration of its determination to eliminate counterfeiting. The practice has harmed the country's image on international markets.

According to government officials in Taipei, the Prime Minister, Mr. Sun Yun-suan, asked for the law to be passed without delay. A spokesman, who denied that Taiwan was willing to tolerate such "piracy", said: "We are sure that tougher penalties will discourage the illegal business that has smeared Taiwan's good reputation."

The new legislation includes an increase in the maximum prison sentence for those who counterfeit trade marks registered in Taiwan from two to five years. Those who counterfeit unregistered trade marks will face imprisonment of up to three years.

Foreign companies, particularly those in the West, have been sceptical of Taiwan's determination to stamp out counterfeiting, but the Government says that in the first nine months of last year 102 violators were brought to court. Recently, police are said to have raided three shops selling fake Rolex and Cartier watches after the two companies had complained.

Officials say that the Ministry of Justice is to sue six Taiwan manufacturers for allegedly counterfeiting the goods of Delsey, the French manufacturer of ABS attache cases. However, 19 local producers of milling machines are to defend themselves against a suit filed by Textron, one of the leading companies producing the machines in the United States.

The total rise in Asian gnp is at \$82,000m, equally divided between the developed and developing countries.

The report puts Japan, Australia and New Zealand in the "developed" and all others in the "developing" category.

It says that most Asian countries should experience better growth in 1983 than 1982, with Australia and Papua New Guinea the only ones likely to have a real decline in their gnp figures.

The forecast is partly based on the assumption that the US economic recovery will begin in the first half of the year. This is important because 22 per cent of the US, says the report, it also assumes modest recovery in Europe and warns that there are "significant risks" to its outlook since "the US and Europe could remain in recession during most of all of 1983."

Should that occur, non-oil commodity prices could remain near present low levels, instead of experiencing a "very moderate pickup". Oil prices, the forecast says, are "likely to be steady or down slightly". That

## Nimslo to make camera in France

By Our Financial Staff

Nimslo, which last week said it was ending production of its 3D Camera at the Times plant in Dundee, announced yesterday that it had signed a contract with Fralens, a French company, to make the camera in France. The camera is also expected to be available in Europe several months earlier than previously indicated.

Workers in Dundee and the British Government, which provided Nimslo with financial assistance, may not be too pleased at the news, but shareholders in Nimslo, who saw the shares slump 90p last Friday after a high of 275p in 1982, will take heart from the assurance that the company will be profitable in 1983.

Mr Graham Dowson, deputy chairman of Nimslo International, said yesterday: "Recent development will make 1983 a good and profitable year". This included agreements with two Japanese companies, Sunpak and Ricoh, to manufacture the camera.

Nimslo has sold 100,000 cameras in the United States, its only market, since the launch in March. They retail at about \$240 (£151) each. Sales are said to be rising, and Sunpak and Ricoh will have the capacity to produce one million cameras a year between them.

Nimslo claim that the Japanese companies can produce the cameras to better standards and more cheaply. It therefore expects that the retail price will fall. Sunpak has already delivered cameras to the United States and Ricoh is tooling up for production to start in the summer.

Fralens is unlikely to begin production until next year. But the contract will bring Nimslo an initial payment of £36m (£3.6m) and £17.6m for 14 years.

Japan will, initially at least, produce the camera for Europe - for Britain, France and Belgium. Whitehall officials declined to comment last night, but comparisons with the De Lorean debacle in Belfast, albeit on a smaller scale, are expected to be made. Nimslo says it withdrew from Dundee because of labour relations problems.

## News in brief

### The economy

President Reagan must decide this week whether to change economic course and embark on a programme of tax increases and other revenue producers in a bid to spark the long-awaited US recovery. Five of the president's closest advisers have said that the record US deficit of \$200,000m will continue to grow and interest rates rise if such action is not included in Mr Reagan's 1984 budget statement which must be finalized this week.

### International

Greece's Socialist government announced a 15.4 per cent devaluation yesterday of the drachma against all currencies. The announcement was given in an unscheduled briefing by Mr Dimitrios Maroudas chief government spokesman.

### Markets

Britain's retailers, having had a record Christmas, are now concerned that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor will help industry rather than consumers in his spring Budget in an effort to discourage imports. Pressure on the pound could also force up interest rates which would reverse the recent trend of higher consumer spending.

### Companies

The National Coal Board is to receive a new subsidy of £20m a year from the Government because a new Scottish power station is being run on cheap North Sea gas feedstock rather than coal. The Peterhead power station will use the gas liquids until 1985 and the coal board says it could lose sales of up to 2 million tonnes a year to the South of Scotland Generating Board.

### BOARD MEETINGS

**TODAY** - Interim: Brown and Tawse, Carlo Engineering, Ellis and Everard, Murray Northern Investment Trust, H. Samuel, Finlay Claverhouse Investment Trust, Cosalt, Exley-Tyres, London Scottish Finance Corporation, Sotheby Parke Bernet. **TOMORROW** - Interim: Centrovital Estates, Hogg Robinson Group, Stand and Simpson, Finlay Stacks. **WEDNESDAY** - Interim: Danes Investment Trust, Hales Properties, Hollis Group, Jaganvale Estates, Maguire and Southern, Moorgate Investment Trust. **THURSDAY** - Interim: James H. Dennis, Greene King and Sons, Jones Stroud, London Investment Trust, Symonds Engineering, John Wedderburn, Henry Wigfall, Finlay Evode Group, Robert H. Lowe, M & G Group, Muirhead. **FRIDAY** - Interim: Peter Black, Guinness Peat, Thorn EM, Finlay Abbey Panels Investment, Associated Newspapers (amended), Dewhurst and Partners, Warner Hollands, Legal General.

### STOCK EXCHANGES

**FT Index:** 621.0  
**FT 100:** 80.11  
**FT All Share:** 396.42  
**Bargains:** 24,042  
**Tring Hall USM Index:** 150.0  
**Tokyo:** Nikkei Dow Jones Index 8,169.29  
**Hongkong:** Hang Seng Index 798.86  
**New York:** Dow Jones Industrial Average 1076.07 (Friday's close)

### CURRENCIES

**LONDON**  
**Sterling:** \$1.6105  
**Index 82.5**  
**DM:** 3.7625  
**FF:** 10.67  
**Yen:** 368.75  
**Dollar:** Index 116.9  
**DM:** 2.3367  
**Gold:** \$465.50  
**NEW YORK**  
**Sterling:** \$1.60  
**Gold:** \$466.25 (Friday's close)

## £20m 'subsidy' for coal board

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The Government has agreed to pay up to £20m a year in subsidies to the National Coal Board to compensate for the fact that a new Scottish power station is being run on cheap North Sea gas feedstock.

The Peterhead power station, which was originally designed to burn oil, has been using natural gas liquids from the Brent area of the North Sea since it was completed in the autumn. The gas liquids are eventually scheduled to be piped to Shell/Esso's controversial Mossburn petrochemical plant in Fife, but until the plant is completed - in 1985 - they are being sent as an interim measure as fuel to the Peterhead station.

The coal board says that it stands to lose sales of up to 2 million tonnes a year to the

South of Scotland Generating Board - a quarter of its Scottish power station business. The reason is that without the cheap North Sea gas feedstock, the generating board would not find it economic to run the Peterhead plant on more expensive oil, and would therefore have to generate more electricity at its other Scottish coal-fired stations. Although the subsidy has only come to light with the start-up of generation at Peterhead, the agreement to pay it dates back to February 1981 when the Government backed down in the face of threatened strike action by miners over the coal board's pit closure programme.

The subsidy was part of the subsequent tripartite settlement between the Government, the coal board and the National

Union of Mineworkers. It will be included in the board's overall deficit grant, expected to reach £526 in this financial year.

The subsidy works out at about £10 per tonne or a quarter of the average production costs of Scottish coal. It is calculated as the difference between the price the coal board would have got from the generating board, and the national price at which it can now theoretically export the coal.

Part of the Department of Energy's rationale for the subsidy is that the gas from Brent and its neighbouring North Sea fields would otherwise have to be wastefully "flared off". Critics will see it as a means of delaying pit closures in Scotland.

## Institutions shy of road plans

By Our Financial Staff

The Government will find the big financial institutions far less amenable to pumping private cash into road-building schemes than it hoped in October when it set up a study.

Institutional investment managers who have considered the idea say they would demand a high level of guaranteed return as part of the price of supporting road development.

One fund manager said: "Our impression is we've discovered a need for a much larger guaranteed return than you might have expected a few months ago".

Funding road-building schemes carries a higher degree of risk than institutions would normally accept because of the

difficulty of forecasting traffic levels and inflation accurately over long periods. Tolls are politically unacceptable and the financial backers would almost certainly be paid by royalties based on the number of vehicles using the road.

In any event, the cost to the Government of using private money would be greater than using public funds.

Charterhouse, Japet, the merchant bank commissioned by the Government to advise it on what terms the institutions might accept, has submitted an interim report, but so far avoided contacting the institutions direct.

Charterhouse has outlined to the Department of Transport two broad strategies which it thinks could be put to the institutions. They will be asked what they think over the next two months before the final report is made to the DoT.

The bank's first suggestion is a scheme where the construction companies would shoulder some of the financial risk together with the institutions.

The second would keep the financing separate from the building work.

The difficulty with the first scheme is that it would be difficult to separate the benefits the construction industry is getting from the actual work from those it gets from finance activities.

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President faces week of decisions on budget

## Call to dilute Reaganomics for recovery

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Faced with record general deficits which could delay the long-awaited US recovery, President Reagan must take the tough decision this week of whether to stay with his economic policies or to change course.

Five of Mr Reagan's closest advisers, alarmed by ballooning deficits estimated at \$200,000m (£124,804m) and above, are now urging the President to abandon key parts of his supply-side programme in favour of tax increases and other revenue producers.

Without such action and big new cuts in defence spending, the outlook is gloomy.

The US deficits will continue to grow, interest rates will rise again, and recovery will be stymied, according to projections given to the President by Mr David Stockman, head of

the Office of Management and Budget. Mr Reagan must act finally this week on his 1984 budget message to Congress in order to meet the printing deadline for submission of the documents by January 31.

But last week, in a nationally televised news conference and in a series of White House meetings with advisers, Mr Reagan indicated he had not been able to make up his mind on the key issues of tax increases and defence cuts.

Mr Reagan has scheduled another series of last-minute meetings this week at which he will be presented with a new proposal, favoured by the Treasury Secretary and others, for selected tax increases, sources said.

Earlier, in his Press conference last week, Mr Reagan indicated he was wavering in



Reagan: time for decision.

"Reaganomics" in order to spur a recovery.

These included the Secretaries of State and Treasury in addition to the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers and Senator Paul Laxalt. Mr Reagan's closest ally in Congress, who described the projected deficit as "a little terrifying".

At a news conference dominated by economic concerns, Mr Reagan promised for the first time publicly that he would not allow the "Federal budget to become a roadblock on the path to long-term economic recovery."

But Mr Reagan did not indicate how he planned to cut the budget or spur the recovery, saying only that he would agree to look at the Pentagon's budget and cut it only if it could be cut without endangering US military standing.

## Asian growth linked to US recovery

By Our Financial Staff

Singapore (AP Dow-Jones) Asia will once more lead the world in economic growth in 1983, with Singapore leading the region, according to a new report. But much of that growth will depend upon a recovery in the United States and Europe.

The report, *Asian Economic Trends*, by the Chemical Bank, predicts that the total gross national product of all Asian countries will rise by 3.5 per cent this year, against 3 per cent in 1982 and 4 per cent in 1981.

The total rise in Asian gnp is at \$82,000m, equally divided between the developed and developing countries.

The report puts Japan, Australia and New Zealand in the "developed" and all others in the "developing" category.

It says that most Asian countries should experience better growth in 1983 than 1982, with Australia and Papua New Guinea the only ones likely to have a real decline in their gnp figures.

The forecast is partly based on the assumption that the US economic recovery will begin in the first half of the year. This is important because 22 per cent of the US, says the report, it also assumes modest recovery in Europe and warns that there are "significant risks" to its outlook since "the US and Europe could remain in recession during most of all of 1983."

Should that occur, non-oil commodity prices could remain near present low levels, instead of experiencing a "very moderate pickup". Oil prices, the forecast says, are "likely to be steady or down slightly". That

## Car sales ride on easier HP

By Our Financial Staff

A boom in car sales following last year's lifting of hire purchase restrictions led to a 4.7 per cent rise in new car registrations in 1982. However, imports have continued to take a growing share of the United Kingdom market, according to figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The relaxation of credit controls last summer, aimed at boosting the severely depressed motor industry, came when car sales were running 2.1 per cent below the previous year.

After the Government's measures new car sale topped 300,000 in a month for the first time in August and showed big increases for the rest of the year.

However, total sales of 1.56m in 1982 were still well below the record of 1.72m in 1979 and below levels reached in 1972, 1973 and 1978.

The stimulus to demand also fed through to higher imports. Including imports from Ford, Talbot and Vauxhall, car imports in 1982 rose to 57.5 per cent of all sales compared with 55.7 per cent the previous year.

Last year's best-selling car was the Ford Escort which sold 166,942 followed by Ford Cortina with 135,745 sales. BL's Austin Metro took third place with sales of 114,550. Four of 1982's top ten best-sellers were Ford cars.

The SMMT figures show a drop in BL's market share of new car registrations in 1982 from 19.2 per cent to 17.8 per cent.



















CRICKET: ENGLAND RISE FROM ASHES READY FOR ONE-DAY MATCHES

# Umpires receive Botham bouncers

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Melbourne

It is with a sense more of relief than despondency, I think, that England's cricketers have come to the end of the first and more important part of their tour. Though disappointed to have lost the Ashes, the margin by which they did so (Australia won two Tests to England's one) was somewhat flattering.

In England's defence, they had very little time to settle down before the Test matches started; they suffered some bad umpiring decisions and had to put up with too much short-pitched bowling at times a great deal too much. When, in Brisbane, umpire Bailhache decided that the time had come to warn the Australian captain of this, the response, official and otherwise, was such that Bailhache retired from Test umpiring.

Much space was given in yesterday's Australian papers to an assertion by Botham that two umpiring decisions "probably cost England the last Test match". One, of course, was when Dyson, though clearly run out, was given in the first over of the match; and the other allowed Hughes, then seventeen, to escape when the England side were certain he had been caught at short leg off Hemmings.

Dyson went on to make 79, Hughes 137. What one may be fairly sure of, though, is that if Australia had had a similar setback they would not have had to wait for another hour before taking their first wicket, as England did. As the weaker side, especially in bowling, England were less able to absorb such frustrations.

An eclectic eleven, chosen from all those who played in the series, might contain, two, at the most three, Englishmen. Last Friday evening when the series was over, Willis paid tribute to Gower's increasing maturity, to Gower for having backed to Taylor, the unsung hero of the series, and to having improved on a bad start, and to Cowans: "We have got a part of the way with Norman" (Cowans), he said. "He has the potential if he can take the heartaches". Randall, too, has had a good tour; he was top of the Test batting averages and has given much pleasure in the field.

Because so much is expected of him, Botham was a disappointment. They tend to think of him in Australia as a home cricketer - outstanding only in England. This winter he had caught brilliantly, taken 18 Test wickets at a high cost, and reached 25 in six of

his ten innings without ever going on the rampage.

Both batting and bowling Botham has not had the best of luck with the umpires. As a batsman he has rather fallen between two stools, knowing that he is at his most dangerous when he throws the bat, yet not wanting to let the side down by seeming irresponsible. There are still the one-day matches in which Australia may be treated to the best of Botham's batting. I hope they will be able to do that, and that he will soon get down to losing some weight. As a highly paid professional sportsman he really ought to.

As an attraction, the Test series was an undoubted success. The thrilling finish to the Melbourne Test provided England with a wonderful tonic and did much to put one-day cricket, via a Test cricket, in perspective. This time last year the managing director of PBL Marketing, a Packer subsidiary which promotes the first-class game in Australia, was saying that Test cricket as it is presently constituted is archaic. People will no longer sit through five days of a match. Those days are long gone. He, happily, has been resoundingly put in his place.

Tomorrow England start out on the second leg of their winter campaign when they play the first of their ten, or, if they reach the final, fifteen one-day matches. The England players will be at the end of a long holiday. Before escaping for a couple of days Willis said "see you a rock'n'roll time". The programme for the next eight days is typical of what they have in store.

They practice today under the Sydney lights, which will be a new experience for as many as eleven of them: tomorrow they play Australia in a day night match; on Wednesday they fly to Melbourne; on Thursday they play New Zealand in Melbourne; on Friday they fly to Brisbane, where they play New Zealand on Saturday and Australia on Sunday; and on Monday they fly back to Sydney. There will be no easy matches. If New Zealand start as the outsiders, they have the advantage of being the freshest of the three sides.

The intention is to pick the best England side while they are in the running to reach the final. What they will consider that to be another matter. Has the time come for Gould to be brought into play, to open the batting and keep wicket. Should Jesty be given his chance, to lengthen the



Gower earns praise from Willis for his increasing maturity.

batting and bowl at medium pace? Would Miller, Hemmings or even Marks be the most useful? Might Jackman's accuracy and experience be perpared to Cowan's greater pace?

Tavart probably be given a rest. Cook certainly will be. Between them, in the Test matches, they played sixteen innings, in fourteen of which they scored 94 runs at an average of 6.71. In each of the other two Tavart made 89. England's average opening partnership was sixteen. On my Gooch and My Boycott legovers.

Within the last six months England have beaten Pakistan, Pakistan have

thrashed Australia and Australia have now got the better of England. These results, which point to the fascinating discrepancies between the game in the three countries. No one has found it harder to adapt to the extra bounce and pace in Australia, often only slight, than Tavart. His method has proved too static to make him as hard to shift in Australia as he is in England and was in India last winter. Back in England, and in Pakistan next winter, he will no doubt be more consistent again. With so few opening batsmen left to choose from, it is important that he should be.

## SWIMMING

# Minute barrier broken by Otto

Indianapolis, (Reuter) - The East German women's team, led by Kristin Otto, set two world records and collected four gold medals at the United States swimming championships on Saturday. Otto became the first woman to complete the 100-metre backstroke in less than a minute with a time of 59.97 seconds.

She later joined Ute Geweniger, from GDR, and Birgit Meineke to swim a 400-metre medley relay that was also a world best of 4 minutes, 28.55 seconds.

**Saturday's results.**  
MEN: 400 metres individual medley: 1. J. Gower (GB) 4:28.12, 2. P. Davies (GB) 4:30.12, 3. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:31.12, 4. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:32.12, 5. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:33.12, 6. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:34.12, 7. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:35.12, 8. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:36.12, 9. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:37.12, 10. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:38.12, 11. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:39.12, 12. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:40.12, 13. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:41.12, 14. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:42.12, 15. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:43.12, 16. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:44.12, 17. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:45.12, 18. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:46.12, 19. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:47.12, 20. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:48.12, 21. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:49.12, 22. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:50.12, 23. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:51.12, 24. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:52.12, 25. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:53.12, 26. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:54.12, 27. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:55.12, 28. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:56.12, 29. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:57.12, 30. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:58.12, 31. S. V. Jones (GB) 4:59.12, 32. S. V. Jones (GB) 5:00.12, 33. S. V. 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## Today's television and radio programmes

ITV/LONDON

**7.30** **For Schools: Alan Rodwell examines America's Red-Tailed Hawk. 8.47 An** introduction to Europe. **10.04** The history and dialect of the **Black Country. 10.31** Electron microscopy. **10.48** A-level physics. **11.08** Descending numbers and basic maths. **11.22** Good Health. **11.39** The business districts of Manchester and Los Angeles.

**12.00** **Alphabet Zoo.** For the very young, presented by Ralph McTel and Nerys Hughes. **12.10** *Let's Pretend to be the Stars!* **12.18** *Smile!* **12.20** *New World It You Can Get It*, presented by Liz Fox. A new series that examines the plight of some of the three million people unemployed.

**1.00** **News with Leonard Parkin. 1.15** The evening news, presented by Robin Houston. **1.30** *Farmhouse Kitchen.* Grace Mulligan and her guest, Sarah Brown, with some ideas for Sunday dinners and pasta. **2.0** *Wild, Wild, World of Animals.* A look at some of the 'immigrant' species of American wildlife. The narrator is William Conner.

**2.30** **Snooker: The Lady Classic.** Highlights of the first round match between Cliff Thorburn and Cliff Wilson. Introducing the action from the Spectrum Arena, Warrington, is Diclde Davies.

**4.00** **Alphabet Zoo.** A repeat of the programme shown at mid-day. **4.20** *Spiderwoman.* A new animated adventure series. In this first episode our heroine teams up with Spiderman to fight some alien mummies who are planning to take over the earth. **4.45** *This is the 1st* - the first of the new series. **5.15** *Michael Grant, the keyboard player for the pop group Musical Youth. 5.15* *Keep it in the Family.* Domestic comedy series. This evening the Grangers are having their thoughts about allowing their daughters to have a flat-within-the-home.

**5.45** **News. 6.00** *Themes news.* **6.25** *Help! Viv Taylor* (see with news of the capital's) Services. A television programme designed to help resolve disputes between divorcing parents over access to the children.

**6.35** **Crossroads.** Diane Hunter is offered a job with prospects and Valerie Pollard makes some serious accusations about Paul Ross.

**7.00** **Watch What Happen...?** Interviews: *Boat Show.* There are items on holidays abroad; a hotel package at Portofino in northern Italy; and a superior self-catering development in St. Michael's, South Wales.

**8.00** **Mike Yarwood in Person.** The man of many parts in the first of a new series.

**8.30** **World in Action: The Power Brokers.** An examination of the tactics used by multinational American industrial corporations to sue systems to Britain which the United States cannot afford.

**9.00** **Quincy.** The investigative pathologist is in a race against time when he discovers a community has been exposed to toxic waste.

**10.00** **News.**

**10.30** **Snooker: The Lady Classic.** Highlights of the Terry Griffiths/Doug Mungby first round match.

**12.00** **Darkroom.** A tale of suspense introduced by James Coburn. A man, down on his luck, finds a box containing priceless power.

**12.35** **Cloze with Richard Pasco** reading from the works of Cardinal Newman.

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## CHOICE

► **damant** that they should build a low station similar to the infamous one at Three Mile Island. Despite that accident the Board insists that *what they want to build is tried and tested design* but in fact the body has ordered a reactor of that particular design since 1978. Why, the programme asks, *have they not considered the Canadian-designed reactor regarded as the most reliable in the world?*

► Nearly 70 years ago, when she was four-years old, Kathleen was sent from her home in England from her native Ethiopia by a missionary couple and settled in Yorkshire. Settled in perhaps the wrong world because she became the early victim of colour prejudice

**Deutsche Gramm.** 5.50-5.55 PM.  
**10.15-11.30 Study On 4 Twentieth-century European Authors - Italian.**

**Radio 3**

55 **Weather.**  
00 **News.**  
00 **Concert.** C.P.E. Bach,  
J.C.F. Bach, J.C. Bach, records.  
8.00 **News.** 8.05 **Morning Music**  
**from Cleveland. Concert:**  
**Charles Martin Loeffler, Ned**  
**Rorem.**  
00 **News.**  
00 **BBC Luncford Concert.** From  
**St John's, Smith Square,**  
**London.** Mozart. Schumann,  
**Ravel.**  
00 **Martina Musicals.** Grieg, Deb  
**Wren, Vaughan Williams.**

### Radio 3

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**Radio 1**

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## Radio 4

0.00	News Briefing.
5.10	Farming Week.6.25 Shipping Forecast.
5.30	News, including 6.45 Prayer for the Day. 6.55, 7.55 Weather Forecast; 7.00, 8.00 Today's News; 7.55, 8.25 Sport; 7.40, 8.50 News Headlines; 7.45 Thought for the Day.
6.25	The Week On 4
6.35	News; The Week Of Mayes. 8.57 Weather; Travel.
6.50	News.
6.55	The Week With Richard Baker.1.
6.55	News.
6.57	News; 7.02 Bps. Issues affecting personal finance.
7.10	Morning Show.
7.15	Daily Service.1.
7.20	News; Travel.
7.30	Down Your Way visits Ashford, Kent.
1.48	News; The Plesael.
8.00	News.
8.02	You and Yours, Consumer.
8.27	Lord Peter Winney Q2. 12.55 Weather; Travel; Programme News.
1.00	The World At One: News.
1.40	The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00	News.
2.02	Woman's Hour. Sue MacGregor introduces items on Fast Family Farm in which Mary Serry, in the role of a housewife, explains how to prepare real and wholesome food without any fuss. The Pensioners' Picnic in which June Knox-Mewer examines the life and work of Katherine Mansfield; and Maze of Mystery in which Frances Bennett's explanation of the various Social Security benefits.
3.00	News.
3.02	Afternoon Theatre. The Honourable Schoolboy by John Le Carré.1.

10 New Record: Buschman,  
 Schumann, Johann Gottlieb  
 Goldberg, Bach.†  
 15 News.  
 20 Music For Pleasure.†  
 Music For Organ. From New  
 College Chapel, Oxford. Bach,  
 Henry Purcell, John Stanley,  
 Michael Tippett, Platten.†  
 25 Freud Rediscovered. Dr Clifford  
 Yorke, medical director of the  
 Hampstead Child-Therapy  
 Course reflects on Freud versus  
 Jung and Adler, by the late  
 30 Walter Kaufmann, and argues  
 that self-understanding is crucial  
 to the exploration of the Mind.†  
 35 Shellac. Concert.†  
 40 Time On Our Hands. Anthology  
 of poetry and music.†  
 45 The Crown. String quartet  
 recital.†  
 50 Schubert's Symphonic  
 Sketches. Illustrated talk by  
 Brian Newbould.†  
 55 Jazz In Britain. European Tubal  
 Quartet.†  
 60 News.

## REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

[illegible]

## ENTERTAINMENTS

[illegible]

**Opens Tomorrow.**  
**STEVEN BERROFF**  
with Linda Marlowe

[illegible]

SONG AND DANCE

[illegible]

MOIRA LISTER

[illegible]

**EMPIRE 1** Leicester Square. Se  
pious daily 10.30am. Not Bookable

[illegible]

lery. On the theme of music: Lecture recitals, quiz, information sheet, audio-visual show. Until 16 Jan.

[illegible]

# Computer appointments

**Appear each  
Tuesday**

**For further  
information**

**phone  
Lindsay Heggie.  
on**

**01-837-1234**

**Ext 7677**





**'Treeways': the Xperab's luxury home in Bromley, Kent.**

**By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter**

Among them was one from Mr Emmanuel Xuereb himself. He told his parents that they had to do whatever they were told by his captors or he would be killed. His father was instructed to go to his son's house to see the damage and tidy up. The kidnappers wanted to avoid arousing the neighbour's suspicions.

Overall command of the police operation was placed in the hands of Commander William Hucklesby, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist squad, who was aware that the kidnappers seemed to be watching the Xuereb family.

At the same time the Xuereb family had to maintain an apparently normal appearance in public. Mr Xuereb went about his business in Haxton Garden and staff at the son's wine business in east London were told he had been taken ill.

Suddenly, at 4 am on Saturday morning, everything changed. Mr Xuereb was telephoned by his daughter in law, calling from a call box in south London. She had been freed and told to call him.

Mrs Xuereb also brought details of her captivity. She and her husband had been kept in a cleanly painted room, possibly a cellar. They had not been injured but the kidnappers were "not kind people". The couple

**Photographs by Brian Harris, John Voos and Suresh Karadia.**

I had assumed that in order to draw the attention of a modern audience the pantomime would be different from those of my childhood—30 or so years ago, or of folk memory. But this show was probably more traditional than it would have been then.

Perhaps people have enough modernity from television. But television did have one important influence on the proceedings. When Idle Jack came on, he was greeted with the applause and cheers

Birmingham panto, are none the worse for being what they are.